THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 1946

Telling Mr. Gardiner

The *Halifax Chronicle* (Liberal) takes Agriculture Minister Gardiner severely to task for his alibi for failure to provide funds for reclaiming Maritime waste lands.

"Nova Scotia," it says, "is to get, as usual, precisely nothing. And the reason for this policy of inaction? This time it is different. This time it is because the Dominion-Provincial Conference *"wasted its time on generalities and shelved practical matters."* Because the provinces refused to accept without question the proposals of Ottawa we are to receive, instead of bread, a stone!

"It is an understatement to say that this is pressure politics with a vengeance. If this foreshadows a Federal policy of hurling the failure of the recent Conference in the teeth of the provinces every time an essential project is mooted, it is very poor policy indeed and no one will be deceived by it."

Training In Fur Farming

In its efforts to re-establish ex-service men the Government of Newfoundland is providing a course of scientific training in fur farming. The plan makes provision for the training of twenty men each year for the next three years, and during the course the students will be provided by the Division of Civil Re-establishment with funds for their maintenance. Those who qualify to engage in fur farming will receive a free grant on a dollar for dollar basis, of $500, together with initial stock of foxes and mink. The success of this plan will be followed with interest by fur farmers everywhere.

"The project is one that appears to offer ex-servicemen a great opportunity to establish themselves in an industry with a promising future," says the *Saint John's (Nfld.) Telegram.* "By years of trial and error, fur farming has become a highly developed and, to those who have applied their intelligence and assiduity to the work, a profitable business. It also offers to the prospective farmer the chance to engage in an undertaking in which he has the opportunity to become his own master. At the start, it may be necessary for him to supplement his income in other ways, and it is suggested that this, as well as the maintenance of the farm itself, would be facilitated if the operations were in the locality of a refrigeration plant, thus ensuring a food supply for the animals."

Bell-Bottoms Dropped

Of interest to Canadians is the news that a selected group of 2500 United States navy enlisted men is at present wearing a smart new service uniform — similar to army or air force battledress—which may be destined to replace the venerable bell-bottom trousers.

The test is being made as a result of numerous complaints against a sailor's uniform which, compounded of numerous traditional and historic features, has been protested as badly out of line with modern trends in service clothing. The new uniform, for example, does not have a big square collar to keep the sailor's tarred pigtail from soiling his jacket. It does not have pants which hug the hips as though they were three sizes too small. It does not have the big "bell" bottoms of trousers which start to move only after the inhabitants have taken a couple of steps—the flapping bottoms which are fatal to seamen thrown accidentally into the sea.

Polls among enlisted men have shown considerable opposition and objection to the traditional garb of the "tar." Design of the new uniform is hoped to meet these objections, and to make the wearers feel more like modern-day fighting men.

The U. S. navy test raises the question as to what the Canadian government is doing. There is no doubt but that the present costume for enlisted men is revered by most navy traditionists but, after all, a uniform which could be more efficient and practical under actual conditions of modern warfare would be a lot more to the point.

The Urban Veteran

Among the resolutions passed at the Canadian Legion convention in Quebec City was one calling upon the Dominion Government to back loans for veterans seeking to establish small businesses.

Inability to secure such backing has been a source of grievance among veterans for many months, and the fact that it can be obtained by those entering agriculture or fishing has not added to the justice of the situation.

As matters stand today, a veteran seeking to establish a business must go to the banks for a loan if he requires more capital than can be provided through his re-establishment credit. This he already can use for establishing a business but the amount of the credit, though exceedingly generous, is often insufficient to cover preliminary expenses.

In addition, he would receive what is called an Awaiting Returns Allowance which Amounts to $50 a month for single men and $70 a month to married men. The latter also receive a children's allowance of $12 a month for one child, $24 for two children, $34 for three and $8 for each child thereafter.

This continues for a period equal to the period of service, or a maximum of one year.

In the case of those in farming or fishing, loans are obtainable under the Veterans' Land Act but the use of this act requires the surrender of the re-establishment credit. These men can also secure the Awaiting Returns Allowance.

Canada's treatment of its veterans has been most generous but, in this particular, it would seem to be more just if the Government were to offer the veteran in business for himself the same terms which now apply in farming or fishing.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

There is still hope for the residents at Maple Hills, but nothing definite. Now is the time to guarantee security or else—?

* * * *

The average Canadian now owns $1,025 in liquid resources—cash, bank deposits and Dominion Government bonds. Per capita resources six years ago amounted to $303.

* * * *

Western livestock and wheat are not alternative activities, exclusive of each other. Given an adequate supply of manpower, the Prairies can produce twice as much wheat as is now the case and several times as much livestock. Actually, the two industries are natural partners, except in those areas where a lack of water makes livestock production too risky.

* * * *

It is interesting to note that "The Last Supper", Leonardo daVinci's world famous fresco, in the church of Santa Maria Delle Grazie, Milan, was found undamaged when the brick walls which have protected it against bomb blasts since 1943 were removed recently. It was feared the corrosive action of the weather might have ruined the painting completely but close examination revealed that the fresco has suffered very little during the last three years.

* * * *

"Six days shalt thou labour," which means 312 days per annum, is too old fashioned for modern economic theorists who would wheedle the Divine command to four or five days per week. Yet it is due largely to enforced idleness that there is so much misery in the world. Normal man is happiest when at work, and more or less miserable and complaining when having idle time on his hands. The farmer has no idle days, and has to neglect much work for lack of competent help.

* * * *

The Research Station of Britain's Post Office has evolved for sorting letters and parcels, a machine which is almost "human." The device is in the form of a large tilted barrel, more than six feet in diameter. As it revolves, driven by an electric motor, the letters inside are grasped by pairs of rollars and deposited on conveyer belts beneath. Parcels which are too big for the rollers are passed into a container. Another machine, even more delicate in operation, is a letter stacking device through which 600 letters pass every minute. In the process they are turned so that the stamp on each is in the correct position for franking.

* * * *

According to Agriculture Minister Gardiner Canada expects to fall short in her commitment to supply Britain with 125,000,000 pounds of cheese this year. There were some estimates that the Dominion might be able to ship 115,000,000 pounds, Mr. Gardiner said, but there also was some doubt about that. The Minister attributed the declining cheese production to the lower output of fluid milk, and said there might be some improvement if there was good grass on Canadian pasture lands this summer. Beginnng June 1, all cheese manufactured in Ontario and Quebec has been requisitioned for shipment to Britain.

* * * *

On this date 1945, following upon the unconditional surrender of German armed forces on land, at sea, and in the air (May 8, 1945), representatives of the Supreme Commands of the United Kingdom, United States, the U. S. R., and the Provisional Government of the French Republic, assumed supreme authority with respect to Germany, including all the powers possessed by the German Government, the German High Command, and any German State, Municipal or Local Government authority!—Eastern Zone by U. S. S. R, North-Western Zone by Great Britain, South-Western Zone by U. S. A., and Western Zone by France. The area of Greater Berlin is occupied by forces of the four powers and is administered by an inter-Allied governing authority.

* * * *

Norwegian Foreign Minister Halvard Lange, during a recent interview with the Oslo press, disclosed that since taking office he has received several appeals from jailers at the various Nazi concentration camps where he was imprisoned for three years. Lange lost little time in presenting an opinion on these self-whitewashers who have suddenly become oh, so anti-Nazi! "I received a letter," recounted Lange, "from a Herr Westerberger, a German who headed the Nazi prison at Mollergaten 19 (in Oslo) during 1940-41. He wrote from what was evidently an American internment camp, asking my assistance in obtaining Norwegian citizenship, as he had many friends in Norway and had done so much for the Home Front that his superiors had thrown him into Dachau. His letter was a typical tirade against the Nazis. During my imprisonment at Mollergaten, that same Westerberger ordered me to jump up and down from a table 10 times because I didn't come to attention quickly enough. But he's evidently forgotten that, for at the time he was drunk as usual. His letter typifies a thoroughly uneducated and unenlightened individual: a typical representative of Third Reich politics. His conduct in Norway does not qualify him in any way for Norwegian citizenship."

Notes By The Way

The quickest way to kill tourist travel is by putting up dollar signs instead of welcome signs. Friendliness can be more beautiful than a mountain—and just as enduring. Hospitality can be more inviting than a lake—and deeper. It takes money to build highways but good neighborliness costs nothing. Natural attractions can easily be wrecked by over-commercialization. Nature made Saskatchewan the way it is. No amount of tourist publicity can change it —Regina Leader-Post.

Give Western Canada's Great Plains and park belt two inches of rain during the remainder of May, three inches in June and three inches in July and the West will produce for the world a surplus of 300,000,000 bushels of wheat to feed starving peoples But if good rains do not come it might be that we would have difficulty in scraping up 100,000,000 bushels over our own seed and feed needs before the 1947 harvest. That is just how important rain can be in the West during the growing season. —Lethbridge Herald.

Answering the inquiry of a correspondent, Newsweek magazine stated recently that the navy has no official order ending the use of the expressions "port" and "starboard". "Left" and "right" have long been employed in giving commands to the helmsmen: "left rudder," "hard right rudder," etc But for the purposes of identifying engines, quarters, gun mounts, etc., the navy has always used such expressions as "port bow" and "starboard engine" Until 1846 usage was "larboard" and "starboard," but at that time "port" was substituted for "larboard" to eliminate confusion.

The principle behind hitch-hiking is a dubious one. Very young people do it, because they have little money and want to travel; motorists do not mind helping them on their way if they are reasonably clean and courteous. Children going to school, or old people on their lawful occasions, are usually offered lifts, and are glad to get them. But already there are too many well-dressed, prosperous people standing at the roadside, often with one or two pieces of baggage, waiting their chance to cadge a trip in somebody else's car. They are simply spongers, and should be treated as such. —Peterborough Examiner

The treatment of alcoholism should receive much more attention than it has, not only from the medical profession generally, but from public health authorities. There are not the facilities there should be for dealing with this social curse, which is taking such a serious and, indeed, increasing toll in every class of society. There should be a more positive effort on the part of the medical profession to acquaint its members with recent developments in treatment and cure. So much has been learned about alcoholism that there can no longer by any excuse for the contempt and indifference too often shown toward the unfortunate souls who have struggled in vain against a habit they are powerless to master without help. —Toronto Globe and Mail.

The special place that letter carriers have in the affections of the public is well exemplified by the action of some 200 families in Chevy Chase, Maryland, who presented to Roland A. Robinson, their mailman for 17 years war bonds and a book inscribed with the names of the donors and decorated with sketches showing the variety of Robinson's services to the community, says The New York Sun. One of those services which particularly endeared the Chevy Chase man to his constituency was his practice of ringing the doorbell when delivering a letter from a son or daughter in the service, it was his notion, evitently an absolutely correct one, that good news of this sort ought not to be kept waiting.

Most farmers know that in these days they will be expected to pay higher wages for their help than ever before, and they do not object to this, so long as the help is satisfactory. Living conditions on farms are vastly improved in recent years; farmers are more generous with regard to time off, and privileges are more numerous. Reports are, however, that there is a greater scarcity of farm help at the present time than ever before. The blame cannot all be placed at the doorstep of the farmer Large numbers of young men went into industrial pursuits during the war, made good wages, joined a union, had more money to spend, and more leisure time at their disposal. They find now that the farms lack appeal and they stay away. —Owen Sound Sun-Times.

A soldier slowly emerged from a taxicab. He had one arm in a sling. With the other arm he was carrying a large and evidently heavy suitcase. "That's the darndest thing I ever heard of!" exclaimed the taxi-driver. "You know what that guy has in his bag? He has a dozen bottles of bonded bourbon whiskey, 95 proof And he's got to drink a full bottle of it every day if he wants to keep alive. "He has a couple of bullet wounds in his stomach, and that's what the army doctors told him he had to do. He's going on a 60-day furlough from the hospital; and the army will send him a couple of cases of liquor to where he lives, somewhere in Nebraska." When I expressed amazement at this tale, the taxi-driver said he hadn't believed it either; but had seen the soldier's orders. Incidentally the soldier had never drunk hard liquor before, and looked forward longingly to the time when he could stop drinking it. —H.V. O'Brien in Chicago Daily News.

With the bread shortage inevitably leading to wisecracks, our research department has been busy tracking down the old remark: "If the people have no bread, why don't they eat cake?" Marie Antoinette (1775-93) usually is given credit for it, or less frequently, her confidante, Princess de Lamballe, says The Minneapolis Star-Journal. Rousseau used the phrase in his Confessions (about 1766) in connection with an incident which occurred in 1740. Antoinette may have used it, when chided for her extravagance, as an old joke from Rousseau, with whom she must have been familiar. Or the remark may just have been attributed to her by Paris journalists, who had a habit of putting epigrams in the mouths of persons of rank. The observation could have been a variation of one made sarcastically in 1771 by Joseph Francois Foullon, intendant-general of finance As tax collector he was hated for his severity toward the poor. He was supposed to have said, "If the people cannot get bread, let them eat hay" Modern nutritionists might argue that the hay would be more healthful than the cake

Weed of Privilege Evil In All Systems

(By John Atkins)

The day was made for leaning on shovels but the job was road work and the taxpayers were doing it.

The slow, cool breeze passed over the southern slope where the men were working. The sun poured in against the bank, tempting relaxation. A flock of white woolly clouds wandered along the tree tops across the valley giving life to the bright sky. Everything said the world was good for those who would work enough to earn enjoyment, and rest enough to work well.

During a crack - straightening stretch, one neighbour said to another, "What do you make of all the stuff you see in the papers and hear on the radio about capitalism, socialism and communism?"

"Well," said the other, "It looks to me as if people like ourselves will never get it figured out if the experts can't agree on what it is we've got in Canada now. It seems we have a mixture of capitalism, socialism and communism but I guess it's mostly democratic capitalism."

The clink of the picks and the scraping of the shovels marked time as the men resumed work, mulling over the problems that are puzzling men everywhere.

At noon the men stretched out in the sun after eating. Pipes were packed carefully and lighted. The talk swung around from seeding to the question raised in the morning.

A respected elder with a long record of service on the township council said: "We might get the thing clearer in our minds if we thought about what it is we want and the best way to get it. Now, take our neighborhood; what do the people here want?"

"As nearly as I can see," said a father of five, "we want to vote as we like, go to our own churches, keep healthy, work where we like, get what we earn and have a chance to earn more and keep more, have comfortable homes and provide a good education for the youngsters".

The agreement of silence returned the lead to the elder. "We hear a lot about the evils of capitalism but, as I see it the evils it capitalism are the same evils as the evils of socialism and communism only I think capitalism has less of them. At any rate we've been fighting them a long time and got rid of a lot of them.

"The privileges of power over other people are the evils in any system. The more privileges there are the less we can do as we like about things that are our own business. Under capitalism you can have a better democracy and keep control over the privileges you give governments to keep law and order. It is easy to change a government and remove any privileges that it may have been abusing".

"Under socialism and communism you have to give the government a whole lot of privileges and power which you cannot take back without wrecking the whole system. The more power and privileges a government has, the harder it is to control it, even in a democracy; and the mistakes of governments that get out of control can be pretty disastrous.

"Privileges in capitalism are just like weeds in farming You'll never be without them but you can keep them down enough to grow good crops. What would be the sense of giving up a capitalistic democracy where we have privileges pretty well eliminated or under control, and we are learning better way of handling them, for a system that can't start without a raft of privileges that can't be controlled and a lot more that may get out of control and smother the crops.

"There is no perfect system and there'll never be one but I'm pretty sure that we'll have less weeds of privilege under democratic capitalism and be more likely to keep our freedom and get what we earn, than under any system that won't work without giving other people power to do most of our thinking and choosing.

"A capitalist, who is anybody with anything at all, at least has to offer something the other fellow wants, at a price he will pay, or they don't do business If he tries to take advantage of a privilege and it isn't profitable for us to do business with him, we can go into that business ourselves by forming a co-operative or a limited company.

"A socialist or a communist has to start with the privilege of deciding what is good for us and making us like it If you don't like what a socialist government does you don't just turn out a party, you tear down the system of government and you have to start all over again.

"I'm all for a system of government or farming under which the more weeds you kill the better crops you have."

"That's the way it looks to me too," said the father of five. Silence sealed common consent. The noon rest was over. The wind had swung 'round to the west and the little woolly clouds were filing back again over the tree tops.

GAY'S PLANTS

We have some exceptionally fine flower and vegetable plants to offer. Pansy in bloom (wintered over) and others just coming into bloom, Carnation, Sweet William, Canterbury Bell, Hollyhocks((only a few), Gallardia, a few left of this brilliant lovely perennial. In bedding flower plants, we have specialized in Petunia. They include new Blue Wonder, Peach Red, Fluffy Ruffles, all Double, Blue Bird, Glow, choice bedding mixture, and others. Snapdraggon is one of our biggest sellers, and they are going fast, The new Chinese Forgetmenot blooms from mid June until frost. Secure some before we are sold out. Our supply of other annuals include, Salvia, Balsams, Annual Verbena, Phlox, Stocks, Marigold, and for edging carpet of Snow Alyssum, Violet Queen Alyssum, Lobelia Blue, Lobelia Trailing, also Marigold, Asters, Larkspur.

Vegetable plants — Tomato are better than ever. Three varieties of red, Earliest and Best, Bounty, and new Extra Early Chatham, (the earliest tomato grown) also yellow plum tomato, small sugar and climbing. A limited supply of Cauliflower, extra early Cabbage, Celery, Cucumber in boxes, Melons, Head Lettuce and Leaf etc.

Regret very much, we are unable to send plants by mail. Some plants will be in limited supply. Come early, bring boxes, or baskets. It will help us to give you better service.

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The Seamen's Strike

(Globe and Mail)

The sudden onset of the Canadian Seamen's Union strike has left the public considerably confused regarding its underlying issues. At the beginning, when it was learned that the union sought a reduction of the work week from eighty-four hours to fifty-six—the familiar eight-hour day—it could not have been thought that that in itself was an issue which would come to a strike. In these days, in a Province in which the forty-eight hour weeks is the standard maximum such a request should not have been difficult of negotiation.

This request, however, has led to a strike, the only clear thing about which seems to be the amount of confusion. As a result of their original inability to negotiate, the union took a strike vote, then fixed a strike date, first for June 7 later June 8. At the weekend, however, a walkout occurred on some ships of the Canada Steamship Lines, which promptly instituted proceedings against the seamen based on a section of the Canada Shipping Act. When this happened the union ordered an immediate general strike of its members, to begin Monday morning.

Yesterday, Mr. Pat Sullivan, president of the Canadian Seamen's Union was reported to have said: "The only demand we went out on strike for was the eight-hour day," but hinted that wages might also have to be considered. Mr. George Donovan, secretary of the ship owners' association, was quoted at the same time as saying: "The eight-hour day was a dead issue."

This was further complicated by a question of legality. The ship owners point to the union contract, which does not expire till July 31, and which contains a clause specifying that during the life of the contract "there shall be no strike, lockout cessation, or stoppage of work by the companies, union or its members." It is as a result of the violation of this clause that certain seamen have been charged with desertion of their ship. The union claims that ranking Cabinet Ministers, including Mr. Mitchell, had branded that clause as "obsolete and belonging to the eighteenth century."

• • •

The Department of Labor, which has been singularly silent on the whole matter, refuses to pass judgment on the legality issue, pointing merely to PC 1003 the wartime labor regulation, which states that no one under a collective bargaining agreement shall go on strike.

Another source of confusion arises from the fact that ships under the Dept. of Transport were said by Transport Minister Chevrier on April 16 to be already on the eight-hour day, with extra time off ashore, when this could not be effective. Yet in yesterday's strike, the union called out the crews of a number of Department of Transport ships, which supply lighthouses and inspect aids to navigation.

From this confusion it would appear that certain irrelevant factors now dominate the situation. This should not be allowed to occur. On the basic issue of hours, there seemed agreement in principle. Why was it not carried through to agreement on details without the necessity of a strike? Why was it necessary for there to be a walkout on some ships before the date fixed for the strike?

There has been altogether too much of this seemingly manufactured confusion in our labor negotiations. Steps should be taken to correct it. The responsibility is on the Department of Labor, Dominion or Provincial, as the case might be, to issue a summary statement whenever a strike vote is taken, and again if and when a strike occurs, defining the basic issues and noting the point which proved an insuperable barrier to agreement.

Such a course would clarify public understanding. It is stated that this strike was called at this time because the Canada Steamship Lines began organizing "scab" crews to operate their ships. It has yet to be explained why the strike had to occur in the first place before the end of the current contract. The public deserves to know this, and the Department of Labor, as the impartial representative of the public, ought to make it known. If the country has to put up with the inconvenience and loss of a major transportation strike, it at least should know why.

That Representation Bill

(Ottawa Journal)

There are times when we are compelled to think that Parliament has a positive genius for concerning itself with things of small urgency, neglecting things that are urgent. Thus we are told of the appearance on the Order Paper of a resolution—in the name of Prime Minister King—for a redistribution of seats in the Commons.

The country is waiting for the budget, long delayed; is faced with a fuel crisis; is plagued by vital problems such as housing and the consequence to reconversion of strikes. Yet it is at such a time that Parliament comes forward with a measure of redistribution.

We doubt greatly whether one man or woman in a thousand in this country cares a tinker's curse at this time whether we have a redistribution bill or not. What the average man wants to know is what is to be done about his taxes, whether something more is to be done about housing, whether there is any chance of averting strikes that threaten paralysis. Yet Parliament, which should reflect the mind of the country, and which has been in session now for months, takes time out about a redistribution bill.

A redistribution bill is not unimportant—at the appropriate time. Right now, when there are so many more urgent things to be dealt with, it must seem to many an annoying irrelevancy.

The Poet's Corner

A LAKE AT TWILIGHT

Two worlds in one: the upper outlined clear
And sharp as truth, the other soft and blurred
Or broken; gentle Nature's arms encircled
A mirror where her features disappear,
Smoothest at twilight the reflections here,
Yet even now the silver may be stirred
By the wing-feathers of a dipping bird
Or when a fish leaps like a hurtling spear.

But pine-dark shore, gray cliffs and deepening blue
Are fixed; the water soon again will take
Their image, be again their counterpart,
In the calm of joy of beauty, what was two
Is blended indivisibly. This lake—
Is it the outward world or my own heart?

—Charles Wharton Stork in Wings.

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