THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)
Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa

President: Lieut. Col. W. Chester S. McLure
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Editor and Managing Director: J. R. Burnett, F. J. I.

Associate Editors: Frank Walker and Ian A. Burnett.

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 1946

The Schools And War Surpluses

War Assets Corporation has an army of employees struggling with complications in disposing of surplus materials and equipment paid for during the war, or yet to be paid for, by the taxpayers of this country. In Montreal alone, there is a staff of more than 1,000.

The policy of the Dominion Government and of W. A. C. is that everything of value shall be sold. With a high overhead and reductions in price to secure quick sale in quantity, however, it is not likely that the public treasury will gain tremendously by a rigid adherence to this policy.

The schools and universities of Canada are reported to be in urgent need of much of this surplus equipment. The schools turned over their resources to the Dominion Government during the war to train workers for industry and the armed forces, with the understanding explicit, or implied that the Dominion Government would replace equipment so used or worn out after the war.

But now the Dominion Government and W. A. C. say that the schools must pay for such equipment. In effect this means that the public, who paid for such equipment once as Federal Government taxpayers, must now pay for it again as Provincial Government or Municipal taxpayers.

The reason for this policy is probably a mistaken notion that giving saleable articles to the schools will reduce the market of those who manufacture or sell such articles The truth is that the schools always need more than they can afford to buy and that they will continue to buy all that they can afford. It is to the interest of business as well as to the general interest that the schools should be given as much of the war surplus as possible rather than that it be sold to other users or to dealers with a consequent reduction in the demand for new equipment.

At present the War Assets Corporation permits the schools to obtain "on indefinite loan"—in effect, gratis—only such materials and equipment that its screeners have listed as non-saleable or scrap. Presumably educators are expected to be grateful for these crumbs from the master's table. In fact they are indignant. The work of the schools is surely of sufficient importance to deserve something more than a hand-out of rejected junk.

100 New Canadian Products

Hundreds of articles never before made in Canada are going to pour from the Dominion's war-expanded industry, the Reconstruction Department predicts in its report by George McIlraith, Parliamentary assistant to Reconstruction Minister Howe.

While the tone of the report is optimistic there is recognition of problems to be faced in the reconstruction period, particularly in the reconversion of plant and equipment and in "a substantial realignment of the labor force."

Figures included in the 65-page survey show a wartime expansion by Canadian Government investment of $706,000,000 in industrial plants and investments by private industry of $500,000,000. It is roughly estimated that the post-war value of this expansion will be in the neighborhood of $583,000,000.

The report is largely of a factual nature, consolidating information on development of industry, employment trends and population shifts; but from those figures certain clear-cut conclusions emerge.

"Canadian manufacturing industries are planning to expand and produce many new lines, including at least 100 major products never before manufactured in Canada," the report says.

"For example, products range from inter-city buses, prefabricated houses, glass fabrics and plastic products to a myriad of household articles. The development of the toy industry in Canada gives promise of an end to reliance on foreign countries.

"Primary materials and components of manufactured articles include ball and roller type bearings; polymer flake, an important material for nylon fabrics; special type yarns; synthetic resins; titanium dioxide for all types of paint. The list of new products includes medicines and chemicals as well as many types of plant machinery and equipment never before produced in Canada."

On Canada's Coming Of Age

An American news magazine has a picture of Mr. Mackenzie King on its cover, prints under it the legend "His country has come of age." Canadians, suggests the *Ottawa Journal*, are sufficiently adult to accept with grace any honor that comes to their Prime Minister, will be only pleased or amused (depending on their mood or knowledge of the facts) by the news magazine's sketch of his career. For the sake of the record, it seems right to point out that the implied notion all through the piece, that Canada came of age under or because of Mr. King is nonsense.

Canada had come of age long before Mr. Mackenzie King became its Prime Minister. It came of age on the battlefields of World War I, acted that age in the Empire's councils during World War I, acted that age also in the peace conference at Versailles.

The Statute of Westminster? That statute was purely declaratory; creating nothing, establishing nothing, it merely defined something established before.

Our American neighbors may not understand that; it is well that Canadians should. Too much nonsense is talked in too many places about Canada having been brought to nationhood under Mr. King. Mr. King, good student that he is, must himself know differently.

Queen's Canadian Fund

The Queen's Canadian Fund was formally closed at the end of the year Since the spring of 1941, when it was organized, contributions have been sent in from all parts of the Dominion, the headquarters of the fund being in Montreal, with local collecting agencies established in the various provinces. For the most part, individual subscriptions have been small in amount, but collectively they have meant a respectable augmentation of the sum available for relief purposes. The money was forwarded to the Lord Mayor's Fund in London, a small proportion going to the Far East; but most of it was set aside for the benefit of the people of Britain, who suffered so cruelly as a result of Nazi bombing raids.

About $1,700,000 in all was collected in Canada in support of the fund, mainly as a result of newspaper publicity. A special effort was made to brighten the lives of young people affected by the war; the "Children's Christmas" may be mentioned as a particularly pleasing feature in this regard Subscribers have the satisfaction of knowing that the money donated has, in all circumstances been used to the best advantage and helped to supply a most urgent need.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Interest in the forthcoming civic election is steadily livening up, and the prospects are that there will be more candidates seeking seats than at any election in the past ten years. This is as it should be.

* * * *

When the Canadian Tuberculosis Association was organized in 1900 there were less than 30 hospital beds for tuberculosis patients in Canada. Today, there are 12,000. The tuberculosis rate among Indians is fifteen times as high as among white people.

* * * *

Among the additions to our medical practitioners in the city we have to welcome Dr. L. E. Prowse, son of Hon. T. W. L. Prowse, and formerly Surgeon-Lieut.-Commander in the Navy. Dr Prowse has hosts of friends who will be delighted to have him settle and practise in his old home town.

* * * *

New Brunswick Government is to be congratulated on ending its financial year with a surplus of $465,305. This is its sixth annual surplus in succession, and a jump of over $360,000 above the surplus recorded last year. Here our Government is in the doldrums of depression and have been ever since the Liberals obtained the sweets of office.

* * * *

A world state is now being touted from London, and information is that this story comes from the anti-Bevin extremists. Obviously, a world state is what we are working to create, but, equally obviously, it will still take some centuries to bring one about. Talk of this kind does nothing but discredit all the efforts to bring about a working arrangement between nations to keep peace.

The provinces, etc., alleges to have decreased in population since 1941 are Prince Edward Island, from 95,047 to 92,000; Saskatchewan from 895,992 to 845,000, and North West Territories from 12,028 to 12,000. It would be interesting to know, for instance, how the Bureau of Statistics discovered that 28 reduction in the N. W. T., not to mention the 3,047 reduction in our own province.

* * * *

If the population of Charlottetown and vicinity be 20,000 as claimed, and a reduction of 3,000 population in the Province as a whole is admitted, then the state of our basic industry, agriculture, for help, must be worse than the most pessimistic of us guessed. The Boards of Trade should check their statistics, say, with the help of the Agricultural Federation, or one or other of the Post-War Reconstruction Committees or Councils. There is something radically wrong statistically somewhere badly needing righting.

* * * *

Sir John Moore, British **General, entered Corunna this date 1809**; he was an officer in the American War, was wounded in the Corsican campaign; served in the West Indies and Ireland; the Holland campaign and in Egypt; was commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean, and earned undying fame for his conduct of the Spanish resistance to France, including the March of the Light Brigade and the battle of Corunna where he was slain, and buried by request in the ramparts; the verses by Rev. Charles Wolfe, Chaplain, entitled "Burial of Sir John Moore," were popular for over half-a-century.

* * * *

Number one export customer of the American farmer today is United Nations Reorganization and Reconstruction Association. Provided funds are available, UNRRA plans to buy $100,000,000 per month of American farm products during the early part of 1946. This amounts to less than 2 cents a day for each of the 180 odd million people in Europe that UNRRA has to help feed. Major food items for relief ordered by UNRRA for January included: grain and grain products $43,000,000; dairy products, $32,000,000; meats, $23,000,000; fats and soap, $5,000,000; dried soups, $3,000,000; soya flour, $2,000,000; peas and beans, $2,000,000; sugar, $2,000,000; fish, $1,000,000. Value of the food scheduled for January shipment totals $115,000,000.

Notes By The Way

An American claims he is able to read the fine print on a revolving phonograph record. On a clear day, he might examine the government's housing policy. —Edmonton Journal.

"When the iron curtain of secrecy falls around an area, suspicion is unavoidable; restless conjecture substitutes for knowledge; and dependable trust is out of the question. These are not the implements of peace and progress. Understanding and good will cannot flourish in a vacuum."— Senator Vandenburg of Michigan.

Precise figures are not yet available but the ministry of justice estimates that there are at least 35,000 children who require care. About 3,000 are Jewish orphans, who were secretly adopted by non-Jewish families and 16,000 are children of Dutch Nazis. The authorities plan to re-educate the children of the collaborators by lodging them with patriotic families and exercising close supervision over their activities. —Netherland News.

American investors have done extremely well out of Canadian mining and there is good reason to believe they can continue to do so. Attempting to protect another man's pocketbook is a thankless job at any time, and the best and most effective way in which it can be done is to follow the principle of "full disclosure" of the facts. If the United States desires to extend its paternalism over citizens beyond the point of clothing them with the "armor of truth," it should be regarded as outside the realm of Canada's affairs. — Northern Miner.

There will be sympathy, but not in any great volume, for Yugoslavia's King Peter, who is finding himself without a country, and must face the future poorer by $32,000 a month, the amount of his allowance to date as a royal exile. Peter however, is not quite destitute. He has what is called a small private income. The world could be sorrier for Peter if it did not see about it many thousands of young men who had fewer opportunities than he, and no private resources other than relatively small gratuities, yet are digging in and re-establishing themselves. Perhaps that is the answer for his problem—work. —Windsor Star.

It is announced by Premier Drew that special course at Toronto University is being arranged to train veterans in the operation of camps, resorts, hotels and other establishments for the better promotion of the tourist trade. Here, it is hoped, is the beginning of a new vocation, one which holds many attractions, and which has a wide field, particularly throughout the northern country. It should be meat and drink for many veterans who have been in the outdoors for so long and who naturally balk at confined spaces. It will be good business for the province, too, to show leadership in the tourist industry, which to date has been left to hit and miss methods, and which, in too many cases, has been exploited not too scrupulously. —St. Catharines Standard.

An opera singer wrote me that tongue twisters are a part of her daily practice grind. Another correspondent asserts her aspirants for the stage are required to say: Three grey geese in the green grass grazing; grey were the geese and green was the grazing. Radio announcers are often required to recite as a test: The seething sea ceaseth and thus the seething sea sufficieth us. A Detroit woman claims she was cured of stammering by practising: The sun shines on shop signs. A young woman writes that her dentist father makes patients with new plates practise on: Amidst the mists and coldest frosts, With barest wrist and stoutest boasts He thrusts his fists against the posts And still insists he sees the ghosts. And now, if your tang is so tungled you cannot stalk trait, limber it up with three doses of: Lemon liniment. —Charles Potter in Reader's Digest.

Recent correspondence in The Times, London, on the dating of books has usually drawn attention to a commercial discourtesy which is irksome to all who take a serious interest in literature, and appears to be increasingly frequent. None of the publishers addicted to the practice of issuing their books without a date has ventured to defend it. One publisher, not himself an offender, has indeed drawn attention to a wartime difficulty, that delays in production may cause a book to be put on sale with the date of the previous year. The main issue is that what the reader most needs to know is when a book was printed, not when it was first sold. It is obvious that legal, and indeed all technical, books may be seriously misleading without a date; reputable publishers of these, however, seldom withhold it. Undated maps, again, including road maps, can be a delusion and a snare, especially in these days of the violent removal of landmarks all over the world; and in this kind it is regrettable to find that some of the largest cartographical publishers are at fault. But even ephemeral books ought to be fixed to their passing day by a date for the most trivial fiction is at least a part of social history.

It has been proven elsewhere that children taught to plant trees never have been educated in the need of conserving them later in life. In this province we need both conservation and plating of trees. Planting expeditions by school children can be planned so the youngsters can have a grand day of it. The province has a nursery turning out thousands of trees for planting. Why not an organized combination of the two? What could be more beneficial than a day in the open for the youngsters, what more educational than to learn the value of building up their country, what better for the province? Incidentally, if the province is not interested, what about New Glasgow (and the other towns here) organizing on their own? School children, now grown up of by gone years still vividly remember being transported to Forbes Lake where they planted row after row of pines; it was great fun. Service club members then provided transportation—we have more service clubs than ever now. And, in fact, it isn't necessary to take the youngsters to Forbes Lake. We need trees aplenty inside the town and especially along the East River.—New Glasgow News.

AND ALL GOOD

It is estimated that Shakespeare wrote two plays a year.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

POLL TAX VOTERS

Sir,—In your editorial notes I read today this item:—

How many unpropertied people have paid their head-tax to enable them to vote at the forthcoming civic election? Apparently the rising generation are not yet sufficiently interested to induce them to register as voters in considerable numbers, thus leaving the selection of Mayor and Councillors as heretofore largely in the hands of property-owners.

I am a housewife and own no property. The other evening I was so pleased to read both slates in the paper showing additional interest in civic affairs. I was particularly interested in the new slate whose platform contains so many good points. I at once began to wonder what I could do to help to get them elected. I thought I had no vote. Please tell me how much the head-tax is which will enable me to vote and when and where can this be paid? Could you suggest how other unpropertied people might be induced to vote. It is a bad thing for property owners to have the whole say. We shall never have improvement that way.

I am, Sir, etc.,

HOUSEWIFE

(The poll tax is $5 and must be paid by December 31. If unpaid the date before election year, the vote is lost. The other taxes are levied on real estate and personal property, entitling the taxpayer to vote. Women have a vote on real estate only. —Ed G.)

Bacterial Warfare

(Windsor Star)

Still another wartime rumor is now given substantiation. The use of bacteria as a destructive force was not simply an alarmist dream. It is revealed that the Axis was actually planning this type of offensive.

What is most striking about the revelation is the secrecy which surrounded the affair during the war. It is now disclosed that the finding of means to counteract biological warfare was the chief concern of the late Sir Frederick Banting. It is clearly recalled in newspaper offices in Canada that censorship was particularly active in screening his activities. Cautious directives sent out preceding his tragic death hinted that he was engaged in a study of aviation medicine, and stressed that no publicity should be given the fact. It was rather mysterious, in that this type of medical research had not formerly been treated as confidential, and in fact had been rather freely discussed.

The value of the secrecy is clear It doubtless protected the public against panic, at the same time concealing from our enemies the extent of our knowledge of their plans. The revelation now made is one that should increase our determination that war shall be forever outlawed.

Science Now Offers Many New Gadgets

(By Associated Press)

An electronic device which literally will burn the egg yolk and bacon grease off the breakfast dishes without damaging the plates is among the wonders forecast by Howard W. Blakeslee, science reporter of the Associated Press, in the January issue of Steelways Magazine, publication of the American Iron and Steel Institute.

Completing his preview of the dishwasher that will put trillions of electrons to work in place of soap, water and scrubbing, Blakeslee declares a puff of air will "dry" the dishes by blowing off the incinerated dust.

Other applications which he foresees for the science which grew from a feeble start in 1898 to a multi-billion dollar industry today, are:

Electronic steam tables for restaurants which will heat each plateful of food an instant before it is served.

Cookstoves, planned but not yet built, which will have compartments for electronic baking, broiling and frying.

An apparatus to emit sounds beyound the range of the human ear to detect, which literally will vibrate baceteria to death. Such a device already has been used to sterilize milk and its application to household refrigerators as a spoilage eliminator is being investigated.

* * *

Highways signs which will pick up the beam of your headlights at night and flash you a printed warning that you are travelling at 30, 50 or 70 miles an hour.

The field of electronics covers all devices in which vacuum tubes are used to emit controlled streams of electrons which can be put to all kind of tasks. Electronics is actually one form of atomic energy use, but the energy release is an infinitely small percentage of the release that occurs when an atom's nucleus is smashed in an atomic bomb.

"Electronics has not been offered for home uses on a large scale because of expense, "this cost is not in the electronic tubes, nor in the mechanisms they operate. The expense is in the power required. This power is used in the form of high frequency electric currents. High frequencies are comparatively expensive to produce.

"The electronic devices, which save great sums of money in industry, monitor operations involving usually thousands or hundreds of dollars. In the home electronics cannot pay its way by producing profits.

"But if power gets as cheap as the atomic dreamers hope, then high-frequency electrical current will become inexpensive. Then there will be electronic tubes to turn the lights on and off according to the outdoor illumination; tubes for cooking, washing dishes, laundering, ironing, dustless floor cleaning, air purifying."

Whenever that cost factor drops to an economically acceptable level even more elaborate uses are probable.

"The electronic future looks fantastic in some ways even through the eyes of a conservative scientist," Blakeslee points out. "Dr. Irving Langmuir of the General Electric Company, a Nobel prize winner in chemistry, says it will taken 10 to 20 years to develop fully the electronics devices invented since Pearl Harbor.

The Poet's Corner

WISE CHILD'S GUIDE

Tender infant, sweetly dreaming
In, I hope, your peaceful cot,
Far removed from anxious scheming
To arrest our fiscal rot.
Though above your head the swirling
Sound of conflict fiercely flies,
Not for you the crash of sterling,
Not for you the dollar's rise.

Leastwise, poppet, not at present—
But by gosh, the day will come
When your dream will be less pleasant
And your burden somewhat glum.
Fifty years hence, when a greying
Prop of State and corner-stone,
You, my lad, will still be paying
Off our latest Victory Loan.

Do not ask the why or wherefore,
That is how our orders run;
That is what John Bull is there for
When World Wars are duly won;
Far beyond perchance or maybe
There he stands when things are through,
Always left to hold the baby
(Not so nice a one as you.)

That, of course, as you grow older,
You will clearly understand;
Therefore, babe, prepare to shoulder
Burdens by your betters planned.
When you outgrow toys and rattles,
Get this right from earlier start—
Britain always wins her battles
And is always in the cart.

—Lucio, in The Manchester Guardian.

LONGLEAVENS, England —(C P)—This little Gloucestershire community has solved its own housing problem. A model village is under construction allowing young couples acquiring families to take over large homes from elderly people whose families have left home It's a straight trade with no financial strings.

DONCASTER, England —(CP)—Doncaster Amalgamated Collieries, Limited, plan a $3,375,000 colliery at nearby Pigburn and a $4,500,000 village of 800 homes, it is announced.

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Every person who is troubled with gas in the stomach and bowels should get a bottle of Dr. Evan's Stomach Mixture and see how quickly it will relieve all distressing symptoms.

Dr. Evans Stomach Mixture, taken at meal time, not only prevents all bad effects from gas but it promotes the functional activity of the stomach, assist digestion and improves the appetite.

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