

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN Morning Daily (Founded in 1857) Pre-ident, Lieut.-Col. W. Chester S. McLure Vice-President, J. R. Burnett, F.J.I. Secretary, Lieut.-Col. D. A. MacKinnon, D.S.O. Editor and Managing Director, J. E. Burnett, F.J.I. Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

the bacon agreement with the British Government Mr. Gardiner says: "To increase the production is not so difficult, but to maintain a high standard requires a great deal of direction and supervision. It is the determination of the Agricultural Supplies Committee and of the Dominion Department of Agriculture as a whole to produce bacon and other commodities that will establish an enviable place on the export markets for Canada when peace comes."

In the same issue Mr. J. H. Tapley, vice-president and general manager of the Swift Canadian Company, Ltd., writes that a 32 per cent increase is estimated in the fall pig crop and that the general opinion of Government officials is that exports in 1940 should reach an all time high since 1932, the year in which the bacon quota was obtained for Canada under the Empire agreements. Mr. Tapley warns that Canadian producers must always keep quality firmly in mind, and quality means hogs that will produce the top grade selection and weight for the British Wiltshire trade.

In another article contributed to the Globe and Mail survey Finance Minister Ralston stresses the importance of the British bacon market. At the stipulated price, he estimates that this single agricultural product will result in exports valued at over \$50,000,000 during the present year.

Pravda, the leading Soviet newspaper, gave 71 columns to Stalin's birthday, one column to world news. St. Joan of Arc born this day, 1412. "You'll never have a quiet world till you knock the patriotism out of the human race."

Following the outbreak of war, the Dominion Government appointed an Agricultural Supplies Committee, consisting of federal officials, whose duties include the regulation and distribution and, when necessary, purchase of needed feed, seed, fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides and other materials for use in the production of farm products.

The transaction involved the purchase of between 20,000 and 25,000 bushels, mostly from the Maritime Provinces. From this Province about 4,000 bushels were purchased, the officials contacting every grower producing on the tuber unit system required for foundation stock. Some had already sold their potatoes at certified seed prices. Only about 100 acres are planted in this Province in tuber units and the available supply was therefore not large.

Mr. Harold Nicolson, M.P., writing in the London Spectator, compares the methods of Britain and Germany in the war of wireless propaganda to which many in Canada listen each night. "People who compare our wireless propaganda with that put out by Germany and draw unfavorable conclusions from such comparison do not realize that we and the Germans are aiming at different things."

This is the criticism of Mr. T.S. Ewart, K.C., Ottawa, on the new military overseas Canadian flag. "The flag may not be particularly objectionable as a makeshift for that purpose but it is deplorably improper as a national flag, as it has been suggested it might be used. The national flag of a country represents the sovereignty of that country and should be designed with that object as a primary requisite."

A correspondent who is in agreement with The Guardian's suggestion that every effort should now be made to obtain export grant rates for our Maritime bacon producers, claims that in the meantime our farmers are sure to gain by concentrating on hog production. An abundance of potatoes, skim milk and barley is available on most Island farms, and makes excellent hog provender. There are some 13,000 farms in the Province, and an average of ten hogs per farm would produce an annual revenue, at the moderate estimate of \$18.00 per hog, of \$2,340,000. In view of the assured market in the Old Country of 50,000 long hundredweight per week, production could safely be stepped up to an average of 20 hogs per farm. Irrespective of the direct profit from this production, the manure would go back into the land, with consequent benefit to the farm industry generally.

NOTES BY THE WAY PUBLIC FORUM

Payment of reasonable pensions to the needy aged should be encouraged by all means. Simple humanitarianism demands it and there is no valid argument against it in these days of enlightened civilization. The chief danger to this movement appears to lie in overly optimistic promoters who do not seem to realize such payments must come from the extra-overburdened tax-payers. Setting their objectives too high, these promoters really give the cause of old-age pensions a setback. — Capper's Keeky.

Even in a modern war, with all its unpleasantness, actual and potential, there are hints of humor and some of these are creeping into the English papers. For instance, here is one where the censor helped matters along. "Things are terribly monotonous here," wrote the soldier from France. "I wish we could get a move and start chasing the Germans." The last word was deleted by the censor, with a blue pencil note to the effect that "future movements of the enemy must not be mentioned."

The best witicism of the war, says "Defence," always come from men who are actually fighting it. The R.A.F., perhaps because they are first "on the job" seems to lead the field already in this respect. Their best effort to date is the following note in an R. A. F. mess "somewhere in France."

The British army's tin hat is admittedly the least artistic in design of all European models. Whereas the French and German battle helmets in particular are of more or less Grecian shape, ours is frankly an inverted scup-plate. It is not till midway in the last war that the battle-bowler made its debut, but soldier ingenuity — for improvisation is the whole art of war — immediately found many uses for it. It served all sorts of purposes, from match-sticker to egg-bowler. It made a good pillow in a barn bet, and was just the thing for a washing-bowl as a container for H. user's Housey draws. Some experts found them quite handy as frying-pans. Of course, the interfering brass hats eventually played their usual role of par-sports, and in 1917, sternly discouraging all such improvisations, in the front line such usages could be used, and ignored safely. And even behind the line, Mr. Atkins' battle bower still held his gaspers and matches. You can't keep a good idea down. — Ottawa Journal.

Canada's production of every type of arm and munition will not fall in comparison with that of the European Allies themselves. And Canada, whose first expeditionary forces will reach Europe early in the New Year, is only one of the Dominions now warring in concert with Britain. In the last war, Australia made only rifles and small arms, while Canada, this time the Commonwealth, is already producing artillery, anti-tank, Vickers, Bren and Lewis guns, armoured cars and all varieties of bombs and shells; Australian factories claim that they can turn out a complete air squadron every three weeks; and four new coastal sloops for patrol work, minesweeping and submarine hunting have just been laid down. South Africa, as well, will be fully able to defend its own territories. A sum of \$250,000 is to be raised in the Union to counter Nazi propaganda and another \$300,000 to furnish a cruiser to be named "South Africa" for the British Navy. These are only the beginning of the evidence that will be given in this war of the self-governing Empire's political and economic maturity. — London Economist.

When I visited the native kingdom of Ruanda, in Africa, I was lavishly entertained by the natives that took me by a savage rhytm that took me by the throat. When the dancing was over the young Watussi buck, showed their skill as short distance runners, or at javelin hurling, or shooting with bows and arrows, and as a fitting climax the chieftain called to the young warriors to greet me. And how do you think they did this? They were starting at a distance of about forty feet from me, and one after another they ran swiftly forward, in spite of their long robes, and leaped high over me, although I stood erect with my big sun helmet on my head. It was always a high jump of between seven and eight feet as my camera snapshots can prove. This means simply that in Ruanda there are a number of young men any one of whom can beat the all-time official world record of six feet ten inches — which is over two inches higher than the Olympic record. Their style and technique do differ from ours. They make a small hard mound two or three inches high to mark the point from which they vault swiftly into the air and over you, and when they reach the highest point their long bodies, legs and arms are outstretched horizontally almost parallel to the ground beneath; they land gracefully on their feet. — Martin B'nbaum in The Listener, London.

On the expenditure side of the Vatican budget there are three large categories: salaries, running expenses, and charity. In the low salary brackets Vatican wages are higher than in Italy. An Italian workman getting \$50 a month would earn \$70 or \$75 in the Vatican. As the rank rises, however, the wages equalize. In the top bracket the Vatican salaries are considerably lower than the Italian. Cardinals who are heads of Congregations and receive in Rome receive \$5,000 a year, a figure not at all comparable to

the income of an Italian government official of equal rank and dignity. The Pope receives no salary, since all Vatican funds are his to command. No department of the government has a budget except for the most routine maintenance expenditures. Everything from \$2.35 raise for a book-keeper to the purchase of a rick manuscript constitutes a special requisition to the Administration of the Possessions of the Holy See. — Fortune, Chicago.

Mr. Kaufman ends his letter with: "Let the rancher decide for himself all the facilities and information AVAILABLE to him, where his choice lies. At least he has the advantage of being able to choose between two alternatives — that is, two means of disposing of his silver fox production." He then asks: "Can this be incidental to his welfare?" I had hoped someone better qualified would have undertaken to answer the above question, but rather than get it answered at all I will undertake to prove it can be most unfortunate if our breeders have to rely on the INFORMATION AVAILABLE to HIM, especially when they are to purchase their not going to be worth fifty per cent of what they were last year. His letter said he was going to submit facts which would help himself. In order to do so he recently inserted an advertisement in a Summer's paper showing prices received at the December auction sales, which as most people know, is comprised chiefly of inferior early and generally unprime pelts. In the advertisement the prices are average price received on dark and

slight silver, quarter silver, half silver and three-quarter silver. Not a single reference was made to the higher priced varieties, yet in another advertisement in the next column of the same issue, he requested ranchers to bring their offerings to him and stated he was especially interested in the lighter varieties. This is the kind of information such itinerant buyers make available to ranchers and then ask: "Is it incidental to the interests of breeders?" I am, Sir, etc. JOHN L. READ Borden, P. E. I.

They will be reimbursed for their labor costs, shipping and insurance costs etc. Now let us be honest and act our age. No intelligent business man will agree that the experienced fur buyer especially one who buys for resale, will pay the primary producer a price for his pelts which is out of first taking into consideration his travelling expenses, buying commission, insurance including war risk, etc., costs of receiving and interest on his investment which in this case is the final settlement. Mr. Kaufman made an admission which is worthy of study by our people when he said: "The net result is practically the same when taken over a period of time." This has reference to the price paid to the rancher the proceeds of which has been questioned by the marketing organizations to which he referred in the first part of his letter, but what is more important to the people of the Province is his explanation which reads: "Was that experienced fur buyer SAVES is absorbed otherwise by marketing organizations' expenses. This is most important because I have already made it plain that insurance, commission, etc., which are common to both systems of selling pelts before they reach the ultimate consumer, so we must look to the 'SAVING' which we must bring these people here, and where do you suppose we find them? In the pay roll of the fur marketing organizations with headquarters in Summerside and Charlottetown and the question we would ask ourselves: ranchers and ranchers is this, Are we prepared to pay the wages of employees of these four concerns thrown out of work at a time when jobs are scarce? For what? For the sake of permitting to other parts of fur buyers from other parts of Canada and the United States of America especially when they admit there is no real advantage to the seller, the net result being the same."

Mr. Kaufman makes two other statements intending to show the buyer pays too much and the seller often makes a mistake by sending his pelts away on consignments. Here we have a well experienced buyer of furs who has a sad story to tell, and "many ranchers will also vouch for the fact that they have at times obtained less on consignments than they were able to get locally by selling for cash." The above may be true but it proves nothing except that two inexperienced men met — the buyer may have offered too much or the rancher may have accepted a fair offer, as such is occasionally made for propaganda purposes. There is no evidence to show that the pelts were any less worth the price offered or on the other hand of the price refused, but how many of these inexperienced fur buyers are running loose these days? I know of a case where a rancher needed cash. He took four pelts to one of the fur selling organizations and asked the manager, who is a friend of his, to give him the value of the one of the four pelts and was told \$105. He then took them to one of the itinerant buyers who was anxious to buy high and when he offered the pelts for \$100, he said "They are worth about \$80, but I need four such pelts to make up an order and I will give you \$100 for them." The rancher said no with the result that he eventually got \$125 for the four pelts. Is anyone so glib as to think that if this man had not gone to the fur seller he knew the value of the pelts, and got his advice that the buyer would not pay for them at a very much lower figure? Mr. Kaufman ends his letter with: "Let the rancher decide for himself all the facilities and information AVAILABLE to him, where his choice lies. At least he has the advantage of being able to choose between two alternatives — that is, two means of disposing of his silver fox production." He then asks: "Can this be incidental to his welfare?"

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We do the marketing of your furs. We are equipped to serve your interests. We act as loan company and salesman. Bring us your furs. It is our sole business to sell. W. CHESTER S. McLURE 110 Kent Street Charlottetown Receiving for THE MARITIME FUR POOL, LTD.

trivance called the "Arrears Book." It is not prescribed by the Act, has no legal status in law and would be laughed out of any court if offered as evidence. In fact the statute does not sanction arrears, but rather demands that a levy of sufficient taxes (and no more) be made to meet the estimated expenditure for the year, and that the surplus be applied to the "Arrears Book" may, and in present appearance does appear, to be a ruse to pay rubbish heaps of antique and undiscovered origin and originality of age. In litigation, of which there are no signs, the judge will tell you to put it in your pocket and produce instead your original entries. And those original entries will be collected and force to wipe off the finest lime-wash coating that expected legislation can apply.

A writer in the press suggests the possibility of further tax increase to reach a balanced budget, but deprecates its utility because it would only be wasted by tacking on more of the same. He further enumerates the city offices. His reasons are pointed but he studies some more he will learn that increased tax rates do not increase revenue, but rather the reverse. This is due to the fact that when you tack up a man's taxes beyond his capacity to pay, then he pays nothing and a total revenue decline, and a vastly enlarged delinquency list is the result. It was the deal of 1928 that started these huge deficits and defaulters list from which there has been no escape, nor will there be until the city officials get back to honest assessments, and practical business methods.

I note a citizens' meeting has called to enquire into the causes of the present civic mess. It is urgently needed. In the last spring session there appeared to me too much of a spirit of inquiry in a selected goat to carry all the sins of the corporation, and to whitewash every other department. I urge that the suggestion that some other cities have done, with proper management and supervised expenditure we could get as much work as at present, with a saving in cost amply large enough to keep us out of the red, and even to reduce our present ruinous taxation. I am, Sir, etc. REFORMER.

The Poet's Corner THE SILVER TREE Lovely and brave the silver tree Stands in the streets for all to see— Ruby and gold and emerald now Gleam the small lamps on every bough— Purple and white and burning blue— Fairer it stands than when it grew. After the stillness of the wood— After that green, green solitude— Into how strange a place, this town, They brought it when they out it down For one brief moment in men's eyes To wear a glory as it dies! —Audrey Alexandra Brown

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