

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1943.

B.C. Growers Dissatisfied

The Vancouver Province complains that the problem and controversy about the production and price of potatoes grown in British Columbia seem to be no nearer settlement in the welter of official decisions, orders and statements issuing out of Ottawa.

The essential contention of B.C. potato growers is that the Prices Board is virtually asking them to sell their potatoes below cost. They have asked that the board set a price based on the cost of production and institute a survey to discover what that cost is.

"It would seem," says the Vancouver paper, "that Mr. Gordon and our local potato men are rather further apart than arm's length and his manner of rejecting their suggestions seems to say that he is not impressed by their statement of their own case."

"Anyhow, he is adamant that the supplies of potatoes must be maintained and he says bluntly that if the principle were once recognized that you could make special exception from the price regulations about potatoes, for instance, then the board would be forced to accept a similar contention in regard to every other product."

"And that, thinks Mr. Gordon, would certainly wreck the whole plan of stabilizing the wartime cost of living and would land us in the disaster of inflation."

"But it is evident that the practical necessities of our wartime economy will not permit this seeming checkmate between the Prices Board and the local potato men. The minister of agriculture, whose only point of contact with his colleagues in this business seems to be that he, too, insists that the potato growers must grow more potatoes than ever, might perhaps show a more helpful interest in resolving the difficulty."

"It ought to be possible, without sacrifice of Mr. Gordon's essential duty in the immensely difficult business of prices, to discover practically whether the potato growers of British Columbia, by reason of their special local circumstances, have an honest case for special consideration at the hands of the Prices Board. And if it is discovered that they have, then it would seem that the only reasonable and practicable way of maintaining potato production without increased direct charges upon the consumer is by means of subsidy."

The authorities have decided otherwise, however. Last Saturday Mr. R. M. Grauer, chairman of a committee representing 2,000 Pacific coast growers, announced that the appeal for an upward revision of potato price ceilings had been turned down by the Prices Board. Growers are allowed \$38 a ton for No. 2 grade potatoes, the quality generally produced on the lower mainland. They asked that the price be raised to \$43 a ton paid for interior British Columbia, Alberta, and eastern varieties, but Food Administrator J. G. Taggart refused on grounds that the cost potatoes were of "inferior quality."

A Plague Of Words

We suffer in this country from a plague of words, says the Ottawa Journal. The Prime Minister himself sets a bad example, and almost without exception his speeches and statements could be improved greatly by the blue pencil of a ruthless newspaper deskman. Down the line through the Cabinet, the senior civil service, the heads of departments and boards, into the ranks of the battalions of Government press agents, the example of the Prime Minister is followed loyally, and without obvious repercussions in every newspaper office. They do not realize, these authors of half-hour radio speeches and four-hour House speeches and monumental "releases" by the publicity boys that verbosity defeats its own purpose.

For its part, the Journal confesses, it seldom nowadays prints the full text of any speech, even by the Prime Minister, realizing that few readers will plow through columns of type in search of the elusive idea. It tries to judge the news value of speeches and handouts in their relation to the news pouring in constantly from every part of the world—and do the editing which ought to be done at the source. This, it may be added, is the procedure followed in practically every newspaper office throughout the country.

Speeches by Mr. Winston Churchill are almost the only exception to the general practice. Mr. Churchill wastes no words, and when he surveys a world-wide war in 25 minutes or a

half-hour his address already is a marvel of condensation.

Oysters And Starfish

The mystery of the starfish is how he can be such a successful foe of clams and oysters. He attaches his sucking "tube-feet" to a bivalve, opens it, inserts his mobile stomach, eats and digests his victim. But apparently the starfish lacks the strength to open an oyster. The force required is reported in Science magazine by Professor Albert Moore Reese of West Virginia University. He pulled oysters and clams apart with a large spring scale attached to steel hooks, inserted in notches cut in the bivalves' shells, and he found them pretty rugged.

One oyster withstood a pull of three pounds (more than a starfish's estimated strength) for 40 hours, did not open until a 22-lb. pull was applied. Another oyster held on against 30 lb. Several clams stood 25 lb. before their shells, not their muscles, broke. One oyster withstood a 3-lb. pull for five days before opening one-fifth of an inch, for eight days before opening a quarter of an inch (a tight squeeze for even a hungry starfish's stomach).

Dr. Reese offers no solution. Among the guesses: either a starfish has "unbelievable endurance," or has some means of paralyzing an oyster as soon as there is a slight opening.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Island may soon develop into the bumping-off place for Europe as well as the Magdalens.

Are big interests being taxed proportionately? If not alive, certainly at death. The will of the late George W. McLaughlin, former vice-president of General Motors of Canada, Ltd. disposed of an estate of \$8,935,493 of which more than \$5,000,000 will be required to pay succession duties. The bulk of the residue is left to his widow and family.

"Jitterbugs" will have lots of room to jump around in on Halifax dance-floors as the result of an order issued by Mr. C. H. Bennett, chairman of the Nova Scotia Board of Censors. The order limits attendance so that each dancer will have at least 15 square feet of floor space.

Mr. Charles William Oman, English historian, born this date, 1860; born in India; fellow of All Souls, Oxford; professor of modern history there; fellow of the British Academy, President Royal Historical Society; his works include: "Warwick the King-maker," "Short History of the Byzantine Empire," "History of the Art of War in the Middle Ages," "History of the Peninsular War"; "The Great Revolt of 1381," "A History of England before the Norman Conquest," "Wellington's Army."

A number of R.A.F. students who concluded their courses here declared Charlottetown to be the best centre in Canada in which they had been located, for sociability, friendliness and hospitality. They put it down to two circumstances; first, we are the only province where the inhabitants are for the most part of pure British birthright and thus of kindred spirit and understanding; and second, so many people here have boys overseas where hospitality and entertainment are generously dispensed to them. A fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind.

This is the most critical, may be the decisive year of the war, says the Montreal Gazette. The amazing achievements of this country in the past three years must not be obscured by any collapse or decline in the whole war effort. There are abundant evidences that the essential industries—munitions, output of raw materials, production of foodstuffs and the railways—are just now the victims of maldistribution of manpower. There can't be said to be a real scarcity of human reserves. A better placing of people is certainly not beyond the capacity of the government and its controllers.

Mr. Edgar G. Burton, of Toronto, retail trade administrator of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, states that "the honeymoon is over" in regard to price adjustments to enable industry and commerce to meet the demands of price control. But he assures retailers that only under urgent necessity and after most careful consideration of all factors involved would trade be subjected to any drastic curtailments of volume and variety of goods available or to further drain of manpower from the already depleted ranks of merchants' employees. At the same time, he urges retailers to adapt themselves voluntarily to the growing stringencies.

An important result of the meeting in Washington between agriculture officials of the two countries will be a linking of the foodstuff production. That there should be the closest co-operation between the world's two great feeders appears to be inseparable from effective war efforts on this continent. The remarkable advantages flowing from the existence of joint boards to direct the flow of essential war materials and of munitions might bring a much earlier collaboration in foodstuffs. Since the war began two or three situations have developed that were harmful to the steady flow of foodstuffs from this continent to the United Kingdom. For months there were uncertainties and disruptions in the supply of hog products. It is true this was partly due to failure to get from Britain accurate and definite statements of British requirements, but it was also attributable to a certain amount of competition between Canadian and American producers. Another troublesome situation arose last year over the supply of cheese to the United Kingdom. Both of these difficulties could probably have been averted by the existence of a joint board such as is now proposed at Washington. Such an arrangement, though, would not be effective in correcting the present domestic condition of Canada's meat supply, which is adversely affecting big industrial centres like Montreal and Toronto, where farmers prefer to supply the export market at the expense of the domestic market.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Forty million tons of wood a year are used for paper making in North America, yet this is only five per cent of the timber cut. The rest goes into lumber, fuel and other uses. Some mills are turning pulp into paper 270 inches wide at a rate of more than 1200 feet per minute. —Stratford Beacon-Herald.

Mussolini did not make Italy great. He made it a gangster side by side with the bigger gangster which has placed it in a slave's shackles. But there is an Italy of greatness—the Italy of Oavour and Garibaldi, Leonardo and Michelangelo. Italy that has inspired lovers of truth and liberty through centuries Italy will not lose greatness, but regain her soul, and opportunity to advance with us in freedom, when the doom of Fascism is sealed. —Chicago Sun.

A contemporary suggests that every one applying for butter rations should be made to take an affidavit that he has no hoarded butter in his possession. Of what possible value would such an affidavit be? People who are willing to betray their country in its hour of need for a few pounds of butter would have no compunction what-soever about perjury themselves. —Brookville Recorder and Times.

An Ecclesfield reader, whose brother-in-law is an Australian army chaplain. This letter refers to the fact that the brother-in-law was wounded. Your brother might have lived if the enemy had possessed a spark of human kindness. They deliberately shot our brother, and killed the wounded who were trying to crawl to safety. They give no quarter as a rule and we expect none. God forgive the callous brutality of the Germans have not been rare. This merely comes in confirmation of many such grim incidents which are only too well authenticated to leave any doubt. —Sheffield Telegraph.

Well, if we keep 'em rolling on the present schedule, we ought to have the end of it somewhere in sight by next Christmas. —Vancouver Province.

London's courts have to decide the knotty question whether poker is a game of chance or skill. The law is not clear on this point, and it arouses no dilemma. It is generally recognized over here that poker is a game of skill, to those who win. —Windsor Star.

Britain is becoming "careless talk conscious." Hundreds who knew of the coming attack on North Africa kept the secret until the outbreak, and the authorities "leaked" misleading information. There was much careless talk about Dakar and the Axis. The British Ministry of War, which these leaks spread indicated that some quarters which "ought to know better" need to learn a lesson. Drastic action will be taken to prevent leaks in clubs and hotels. High staff officers have been known to discuss important military affairs over meals in public houses. Officers will be cautioned ever this is done in future. —London Express.

Some hotelmen fear that the day is coming when guests will have to provide their own towels and other linens. In this way the hotels should save some of their own back. —Hamilton Spectator.

Maybe you don't see them often these days but more than 200 products are made from peanuts. —St. Thomas Times-Journal.

It Duce now admits that he stabbed France in the back, but puffs the secret into the air. He is proud on him because the victim (unluckily) didn't quite die. —Toronto Star.

"The necessary know-how" is one of the shorter pithier, stream-lined modernisms—meaning "ability." —Detroit News.

Windsor school teachers who have joined the armed forces will enjoy a greater sense of security because of the ruling made by the Department of Labour, which the Board of Education will carry out. They will be assured of re-employment when they return, and at the salary they had when they left. They remained home and been given their annual increases. There is essential fairness in this regulation. Without its operation, teachers who entered the service would be actually penalized for serving their country. They would have had to look on their period of service as time completely wasted, with no return on their investment. The Board of Education did not do the uniform, had enjoyed greater advantages. The principle underlying the ruling is entirely well founded. —Windsor Star.

Teacups without handles cannot be nearly as bad as cups without tea. —St. Catharines Standard.

Motorists should not get too angry with judges who, out of a wealth of experience in court cases, espouse the cause of the man on foot. Nobody ever heard of a pedestrian knocking over a motor car and running over it, with fatal results. —From Vancouver Sun.

American military and naval policy has been free in announcing the names of individuals in its armed forces who have merited medals. But the stimulation to esprit de corps afforded by public recognition of a ship or a regiment has been far less in evidence than in Britain. Our Allies have made something of a fetish of the ship and the regiment preserving their designations through centuries of wars, mustered a host of valiant ghosts to sustain their traditions, while this country has placed its emphasis upon the individual and the service. But recent years the American Navy has been dipping into the early history of the Republic for names of its aircraft carriers, and more recently still, halting the ships of today—probably the USS Hancock and the Boise—for their contributions to victory. —New York Herald Tribune.

A press report from Ottawa says that in a mood of "ruthless simplification" the Wartime Prices and Trade Board has lopped the handles from cups. This knock-off being able to hit on the right word rouses a feeling of envy. In the days of our youth, dish washing was one of the

Now That It's All Over

It was the year that talk about a second front and dilly-dallying over conscription, and the Waacs and the Wrens, and the beginning of rationing and the big storm in the end. It was the year when we dimmed lights in our streets, and found out how much money we could save by putting up our ears, and started blackouts, and when a minister of the Crown had his lighted pipe snatched from him by an A. K. P. warden and then got fined in court. No one wrote a garage song since a lot of people wrote bad ones, and in the end everybody was singing "A White Christmas," never thinking it would be so white. Jean Francois Poulin kept on talking. The Toronto papers kept on "viewing with alarm." "Mittih" Hepburn resigned.

Parliament met with the usual hopes and closed with the usual disillusionments. Mr. King called for a plebiscite for power to bring conscription and then when he got the power didn't bring it. Mr. Cavendish resigned from the cabinet to the mystification of everybody at the time and to their greater mystification since.

More and more bureaucrats invaded Ottawa and established beach-heads in so many new build-ings that we stopped trying to count them; and more and more women appeared in our streets, and horrid little jokes broke out about "Waacs" and "Wrens."

Movie stars came from Hollywood to ask us to buy war bonds, and a people who had seen the movie "Mrs. Miniver" but hadn't read the book cried out the buttons of Walter Pidgeon's coat and in the end Mr. Hillyer got more money than he asked for, but not so much as to stop the people paying no attention to him in the streets; and temperance and buying more liquor than before.

Mr. Wendell Wilkie became a garage sale and flew all over the Middle East and Russia and China and then came home to make a speech that displeased Toronto. Life read Britain a lecture on "imperialism" which displeased everybody, including "Life" itself in the end. Mr. King made a speech to the Pilgrims in New York, went to the White House, and then came home to tell his ministers on his birthday that he wasn't going to resign.

War news was bad the first half of the year and the second half. People discovered the location of the Coral Sea and the Aluetian Islands and radio announcers were able to pronounce some Russian names. Six Stafford Cripps returned from Moscow to go to India, and Gandhi was no help at all. Mr. Churchill made a speech about liquidating the British Empire which left things as before. Herr Hitler said he would take Stalingrad and Rymmel said he would take Egypt, and both were wrong. In the end Timoshenko was chasing Hitler out of Russia and Montgomery was chasing Rommel right to Tripoli, and people no longer no glorify that "we're losing this war."

There was grumbling over butter, sugar, tea and coffee, and in the end butter, but because some of them talked too much and got ahead of the other. The council of Gullit Little, brought to Ottawa to select men for national service, wasn't allowed to select them and went back to his pulp and paper mill. The Ministers made speeches about more and more sacrifices and talked of closing down non-essential industries but somehow few people took any seriously, and the only non-essential industries passing out were natural war casualties. Things never got as bad as some said they would.

The Conservative party took a new leader in Mr. Bracken, choosing a farmer instead of a lawyer. Mr. Meighan quit public life, and Mr. Mackenzie King went to grow onions on a farm in Elgin county, and in Quebec they started a new party, and the Conservative party, led by Bennett and Camille Houde was still interned. There were things in the papers to break your heart, and things to thrill you, and things to shame you, and things to make you proud and cold—and all of them were side by side. Airmen in epic flights. People who boarded food. The heroism of Dieppe. The failure with manpower. The courage of our soldiers wherever they fought. The delay in vital decisions at home. High roads in the spirit of sacrifice, on the one hand. Hesitation and timidity, on the other hand. That was our year. May we have a better one before us, please God.

NEW INDUSTRIAL DISEASE LONDON (CP)—Two members of the medical staff of Redhill County Hospital, Edgeware, have discovered a new industrial disease which has been named Baggasitis, after the word baggas, a technical term for sugar-cane dust and affecting persons working in sugar-cane dust atmosphere.

THEY ROB THE PIGS LONDON (CP)—The British Supply Ministry's newest problem concerns daily raids on Chelsea's pig-food bins by cats, dogs and rats. It's all because some people fail to replace the lids.

chores visited on the small fry. Many times a crash from the kitchen was followed by a demand for an explanation of the scattered fragments. How much pain and suffering could have been avoided if we had known about "ruthless simplification." —Winnipeg Tribune.

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Department of Provincial Treasurer
Land Taxes in Default
Notice is hereby given that this Department now holds a judgment against all persons, for taxes and costs, advertised as in default, under date of the 21st of September, 1942, and which are still unpaid.
It is further advised that unless such tax arrears are paid on or before Tuesday, the 12th day of January, next, it is the intention to cause executions to be issued for such amounts as may then be owing.
C. J. STEWART,
Supervisor of Taxation
Charlottetown, P.E.I.,
December 31, 1942.

ISOLATED GREYNA GREEN
CARRIELE, Eng. (CP)—A great tidal wave which swept up the Solway Firth recently flooded many houses and farms, drowned cattle and sheep and made many families homeless. The wave, the worst in 20 years, isolated such places as the Gretna marriage house where many runaway marriages have taken place.

The Poet's Corner
LAST TENANTS
The birds no longer fly across crag-darkened lakes. The mist comes down like ghosts upon their beams and ricks; Sunlight recedes and salt-sharp from the sea.
The leaping winds torment this croaking land. Thunder about the tree That leans against their shattered house.
Under the creaking floors, inside the walls, Bright-eyed, the rats squeal in the falling dust. Only the beetles do not hear the squeals. Worry home the lost bird to its nest.

NEW INDUSTRIAL DISEASE
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LONDON (CP)—The British Supply Ministry's newest problem concerns daily raids on Chelsea's pig-food bins by cats, dogs and rats. It's all because some people fail to replace the lids.

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RECAPTURE CAPITAL
CHUNGKING, Jan. 8.—(AP)—The Chinese Command announced tonight the recapture of Lihuang, provisional capital of Anhwei Province, and how quickly the Japanese were killed and wounded in the fighting and others were cut off northwest of the city. The communists said the isolated Japanese column was trying to fight its way out to the northwest.

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