THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink."

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1941.

U. S. Farmers Favored

While in Canada agriculture has been allowed to become a "war casualty" and has benefited less than other industries from the boom in war production, a different situation prevails in the United States. The farmers there are in a preferred position. The prices of their products as a whole show a rise of 45 per cent, as against a rise of 33 per cent for all raw materials, including minerals, 17 per cent for manufactured goods, and 7 per cent in retal prices as measured by the cost of living index.

The large increase in U.S. agricultural prices has been due primarily to the government's farm programme. This programme involves the use of three methods of raising farm prices to parity or over; "parity" meaning the relative levels of agricultural and industrial prices obtaining in the period 1909-14. The methods are analyzed in an interesting booklet just issued by the Brookings Institution, an organization devoted to research and training in the social sciences.

The first method (well known in Western Canada) is acreage restriction or quotas for a few major staples. "This method," says the booklet, "has been no more effective than in the recent past."

The second method—thus far perhaps the most important—is the recent stepping up of the commodity loan programme. The U.S. farmer is now enabled to borow up to 85 per cent of the parity price. This price thus becomes in effect a guaranteed minimum. Since the government withholds these crops from the market in warehouses the result is to reduce the effective supply and thereby raise the market prices not only to, but generally even beyond, the guaranteed minimum.

If the government were in due course to offer these warehoused surpluses for sale in the market, the rise would be checked or even turned into a decline. But the government may withhold its accumulated stocks for a long period of time. The prices of most farm products are now above parity, and yet the government is withholding its supplies. Moreover, a provision has been inserted in the administration's price control bill that no ceiling shall be established on any agricultural commodity below 110 per cent of the parity price.

The third method is by the outright purchase in the market of numerous products. This is done in part under the food stamp plan but now more largely under the programme of Lease-Lend purchases and the accumulation of stockpiles of food and clothing materials for the relief of Europe after the close of the war. This method is encouraging particularly the expansion in production of hogs, eggs, evaporated milk, dry skim milk, cheese and chickens.

The acreage restriction method has been in operation for some years and has not been essentially modified since the outbreak of the war. The loan and purchasing methods have been greatly extended during recent months and it is to these methods that the success of the government in raising agricultural prices is chiefly attributable.

The full effect of this programme has not as yet been manifest at the consuming end. Emphasis is placed on the need of coordinating it with wage policies if a spiral of rising costs is to be avoided.

An Enemy Tribute

British statesmen are inclined, and properly so, to take a grim view of the war situation. Addressing the people of a Midlands town last Saturday, Labor Minister Bevin went so far as to say that "things are really desperate." "We have," he said, "a terrible task facing us. It is very serious indeed, in the Far East as well as Russia. We know Germany is putting everything she can into production to be ready for us in the Spring. You must give every lad in our forces more guns, more tanks, more shells, more airplanes than Hitler can provide."

These are words of challenge, not of despair. They are intended to discourage complacency and wishful thinking, and prod the dullest intellect into realization of something of the issues at stake. There is happily, however, another side to the picture. It is one which we do not often see, because it is revealed only to the enemy in its full measure. A significant glimpse is given in the following quotation from a Rhineland newspaper, the *Kolnische Zeitung* in a comment on the Iran occupation by British and Russian forces:

"It would be foolish to underestimate the British successes in Iran. Great Britain now controls many important oil districts, and besides those of Western Iran all the oil refineries of Abadan and the Shatt al-Arab, as well as those of Southern Iran, are now working for England. This considerably increases the value of the British strategic positions. At the same time Great Britain has established communication with Russia and secured, if she needs them, the oil districts of Baku. It must be admitted that the whole strategic position of England in the Near East is now much stronger and that her problems of defence in that area have been considerably lightened."

This tribute from the enemy is not inconsistent with Mr. Bevin's warnings.

Together they can be recommended as making an excellent war tonic.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Be patriotic and today patronize the Girl Guides in their sale of War Saving Certificates.

* * * * *

Lord Strabogli, Labour Leader in the House of Lords, says it will not be long before we have women air pilots.

* * * *

Tomorrow concludes Navy Week, when the interests of the boys of our First Line of Defence have been foremost in our hearts and minds.

* * * * *

Significant. Germany is building heavy fortifications in occupied France in anticipation of an invasion by the British. Hope France stabs the alien occupiers in the back.

* * * *

Is it nothing to you that the foe is virtually at your door (for we are all in the front line today)? Personal economy and personal investment in War Saving Certificates are vital means of withstanding the aggressor.

* * * *

Britain is importing Hindus as munition workers, and 50 of them were recently entertained by the British Empire Club. At tea they were joined by men of the Royal Navy and a batch of Canadian soldiers. U. S. Ambassador Winant addressing them expressed a hope that the training scheme for young Hindus might be extended to the United States. It is presumed that once thoroughly initiated, the Hindus will return to India as a nucleus for munition and equipment industries there, which would solve to a considerable extent the difficulties of warfare in the East.

* * * *

Evidence of a disturbing state of illiteracy in certain rural areas of the province of Quebec is cited by Mrs. G. F. W. Kuhring, for years educational convener of the Quebec Women's Institute. She cites instances of munition factory employers being unable to hire much local labor because of the inability of the applicants to read signs or printed instructions; and of the necessity to revamp a whole six-weeks farm boys' course, so that it might be given along oral lines, because the candidates were unable to read printed instructions and literature intelligently."

* * * *

Hundreds of new families will begin to arrive in Halifax and vicinity soon as Wartime Housing, Ltd., press forward with one of the biggest home construction programs ever seen in the Maritimes. Two separate communities are in the final stages of construction, one of them in Halifax North and the other on the outskirts of the sister city of Dartmouth. Almost all of the buildings erected are pre-fabricated, varying in size for the size of families scheduled to occupy them under federal programs which necessitate "imports" of skilled artisans to an already overcrowded war zone. Big barracks have been constructed for single men brought in for the various jobs. Canteens and restaurants will be operated in conjunction with the new communities, at which garret-dwelling Haligonians cast longing eyes.

* * * *

Geoffrey Chaucer, the first great English poet, died this date 1400; known to the present generation principally as a taskmaster, whose Canterbury Tales must be studied in the English Literature Class; began life as a page boy, became a soldier, and taken prisoner in France but subsequently ransomed; appointed a valet to the King, who raised him to esquire; returned to the war in France, after which he entered the diplomatic service carrying out important missions abroad; became Customs Comptroller in London, and when he died was buried in Westminster Abbey. Apart from his being the first great English poet, he is noteworthy as being the saviour of English as a spoken and written language. Before his writings French was largely the means of vocal and written communication in common use, but after the publication of Chaucer's works a statute was passed in 1362, making it mandatory that English instead of French be employed in the law courts.

* * * *

Every time she got going on a good as-
La)
La
La
La
La
cending trill (Tra the piano tuner would go
Plunk,
Plunk,
Plunk,

It was all very disconcerting for a 24-year-old actress and singer like Mignon Laird, she said—so disconcerting (fortissimo) that she and the piano tuner were invited to West Side, Montreal, court to explain the racket. Miss Laird said she had rented a rehearsal studio for three hours to brush up on her singing. She was just getting warmed up, she said when this piano tuner barged in and said, "How's the old piano? Does it need a tuning?" Miss Laird said it needed a little tuning, all right, but she was busy and would he please come back some other time. He went away but he was back again in a half hour and announced that this time he was going to tune the piano, and no more shilly-shallying. Well, Miss Laird said she tried to carry on, but every time she started up the old scale there would come a series of dismal plunks. From there on the story is a little blurred. Miss Laird said the piano turner finally socked her. The piano tuner, George Zorn, 41, said he merely tried to protect himself when she became "temperamental," scratched his face and threw his bag of tools at him. In court, they charged each other with disorderly conduct and were paroled.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The certainties of the future are that there is plenty of fighting ahead. The war is far from won; it can still be lost. Without being actually lost it might bog down into a stalemate that would ruin the world for a hundred years Nothing but victory clear-cut, decisive and final, will serve. There is no thing in the situation to make words which Churchill uttered just a year ago, less fitting today: "Because we feel easier in ourselves and see our way more clearly through our difficulties and danger than we did some months ago..... do not let us dull for one moment the sense of the awful hazards in which we stand. Do not let us lose the conviction that it is only by supreme and superb exertions, unwearying and indomitable, that we shall save our souls alive". —Winnipeg Free Press.

Should the minimum age for automobile drivers be raised? Magistrate D. M. Brodie of Windsor has raised the question, and expressed doubt that a boy of sixteen should be allowed to drive. There are many who will agree. The age limit was set when traffic conditions were much more simple than they are today. Modern cars are faster and more powerful, too. While doubtless there are many good drivers among the very young, mature judgment and discretion are needed, and these usually come with age and experience. The question of raising the minimum age limit is one that should be reconsidered in the light of modern traffic conditions. — Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

The Russian people are victims of Nazi aggression and it happens that Russian defense is vitally in the interests of this country. There is reason enough in that to justify the fullest aid that can be given, without nominating Joe Stalin as a co-defendant of the Four Freedoms. — Detroit News.

It is hinted in Ottawa that Prime Minister King and his colleagues are now examining the present methods of enlistment. They have to decide soon where some other method is called for. Mr. King came back from Britain a short time ago convinced that all-out effort is demanded of Canada, and that this is every man's battle — a struggle between brute force and decency. — Calgary Herald.

Every Russian soldier is equipped with a warm sheepskin coat and felt boots. Remarque told in his All Quiet On The Western Front of how tattered uniforms and broken shoes not only made the German troops look like pitiable scarcrows in the Winter of 1917-18, but broke their morale. Hunger, cold and rage may do the same again. — Hamilton Spectator.

News of ghastly deeds of subjugation committed by the Nazis in conquered Europe may be read daily in the newspapers. The singular part of this news—apart from its inhumanity — is that its truth is vouched for by the Nazis from whose own sources it flows. They seem proud to boast of their acts, which are abominations in the sight of the rest of the world. Or they imagine that broadcasting their cruelties will breed fear in people whose spirit never has been and never can be cowed. — Winnipeg Free Press.

Cooler weather is here and the annual parade of transients has begun. Reports have reached the News-Argus that citizens on Emily street were being pestered by a couple of young transients begging for food on Monday. With all kinds of work available for those who want to work there is no excuse for young, healthy men going from door-to-door seeking a handout. The time seems ripe for the authorities to stamp out this practice and if the local constable will chase these lazy fellows out of town instead of providing accommodation for them at the local bums' roost, he will win the gratitude of every citizen of the village. — Stirling News-Argus.

A bronze tablet, placed on the post office building in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, commemorates the opening in 1755 of the first formal and permanent post office in what is now the Dominion of Canada. It was established in Halifax as a part of a general scheme for closer and more regular communication between the colonies and the Mother Country, and marked the extension into newly acquired territories of a postal system that had been in operation for nearly three-quarters of a century, with well established modes of administration. — Canadian Resources Bulletin.

If the people think they can beat the Axis Powers by attending patriotic cock-tail parties, singing the "Star-Spangled Banner" in movie houses or wrapping bundles for Britain, they are mistaken. If they think they can make the nation"s foreign policy effective by merely writing a cheque, that is, by paying heavyier taxes, they may be heavily disillusioned. If they think this country can do business as usual, if they think they can have, so to speak, guns and butter, too, they are in for more disillusionment. This war is not being settled by piling up old aluminum kitchen utensils in the public square, or knitting sweaters, or passing resolutions or buying tickets for benefit dances. — St. Louis Post Dispatch.

We feel not a bit grateful when Lord Woolton promises us only one egg per person. We praise him on the other hand for his bargain with Iceland, which seems to secure for us nearly all the fish except herrings which that strategic island is able to take out of the seas between now and the end of June not to mention the stocks of salted and frozen fish which it now holds. We look forward with greedy pleasure to the two pounds of onions each which he promised us at the end of the season, and we do not fear the effect upon our moral natures of the abundance of carrots which he announces. — Manchester Guardian.

It makes some people shiver to think of Western farmers using good wheat, the best bread grain on earth, to feed hogs and other livestock. It sounds almost sinful when so many millions of the world's people are starving. And now comes word that Ontario farmers are feeding apples to livestock. We suppose British Columbia apple growers are doing the same thing. We generally consider apples only as human food, and something of a luxury at that. But apples are said to be good livestock feed and give good results. So when there is an unsaleable surplus in the district where they are grown it may be considered good business to feed the surplus to livestock. Better than letting them go to waste. Which would all indicate that Canada's livestock are on a de luxe diet—wheat and apples. — Lethbridge Herald.

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A THOUGHT A DAY FOR A PEOPLE AT WAR

"There must me united effort, mutual sacrifice and unremitting production if we are to share in victory and then join in the great task of world reconstruction." Ernest Bevin, British Minister of Labour.

Car Finishes And Dew

(Exchange)

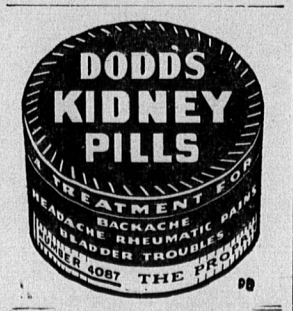
Motorists who like to keep their cars sleek and shining may be surprised to learn that one of the agencies harmful to the finishes of automobiles is dew. This has been determined by chemists after conducting many experiments that car surfaces which are subjected to dew, followed by sunshine, lose their lustre much more rapidly than finishes which receive the same amount of sunshine but are not exposed to dew. Since dew generally forms at night, and particularly during the months of autumn, the logical conclusion of these chemists is that drivers should keep their cars in a garage at night if they hope to preserve the polished surface over a longer period of time.

For many years, car owners have been under the impression that sunshine, especially the ultra-violet rays of the sun, was the active elements in destroying the exterior finish of vehicles. Chemists themselves also accepted this theory, until the question of dew was raised. Samples of painted surfaces were then subjected to tests in sunny climates, such as prevail in Florida and California. Test fields for surface finishes are still maintained in Florida, as experience has shown that an exposure of three months to the sun there is equal to several years in most other climates.

In checking the failures of surface finishes with the hours of exposure, it was found that the most deterioration occurred during the months with the least sunshine. This proof was a surprise to the investigators, as it was contrary to the accepted theory. Further tests revealed that exposure from midnight to noon gave a more rapid dulling of the finish than exposure from noon to midnight. Dew was suspected of being responsible for this, as it was the only other element that was present during the morning hours, accompanied by sunshine.

Further tests were then carried out with "dew boxes" in which the moisture was produced by artificial means. These trials proved beyond all doubt that dew was the culprit. Its action on car surfaces is altogether different to that of rainfall, which does not have the same injurious effect. Dew, and then sunshine, day after day, will soon dull the best surface which any maker can put on his cars, says chemists. Proper protection for a nice model is therefore good economy, as well as a safeguard against theft and collision during the hours between midnight and daybreak.

Newspapers can be read 12 miles away in the beam of a parallel beam searchlight that is being developed.



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PUBLIC FORUM

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

FARM MORTGAGES

Sir:—Many thanks for that editorial on "Farm Mortgages" in the Guardian (October 7). I note your conclusion that: "Foreclosure of farm mortgages means ruin to the individual farmers and, if continued on a large scale, to this Province as well.."

All I care to add to the foregoing would be these words: 'and, if continued on a still larger scale, to this Dominion as we'll!"

While I've my pen in hand, may I spotlight the following paragraph from the pen of a rural columnist, on this same farm mortgage front:

"Lack of credit is a great handicap, one farmer said. He told of his next-door neighbor who, at the end of the last war, bought 400 acres. The price was $24.000. He had four sons—sober, hard-working, intelligent boys.' The whole family worked together and gradually paid in interest and principal $17.000. The mortgage was down to $5.000 when the man who held the mortgage died, and the heirs demanded payment. The family tried everywhere to get the money but could not, and they lost the farm. It is heartbreaking" ...(Agnes Macphail, in Globe & Mail, Toronto, Ont.)

In this reader's opinion, the above picture, if within shouting distance of the facts, merits the critical beam of newspaper publicity before rather than after the tragedy. From the angle of good citizenship, in this or any other country, such a situation is nothing less than a disgrace to our civilization.

I am, Sir, etc.,
ONTARIO FARMER.

Could Be Trained In Canada

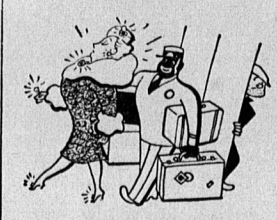
(Toronto Telegram)

It would be a mistake to assume, from reports of the formation of a special corps of highly trained attack troops in Britain, that early invasion of the continent is in prospect. As far as can be gathered from the reports, this corps d'elite is intended to furnish raiders—it is possible that part of their training is in occasional forays into Europe—or spearhead troops, such as those Hitler hurls ahead to seize and hold strategic points until his main forces arrive. When the time comes for a large-scale landing these will lead the way and in the meanwhile they may harry the enemy all up and down the long coast line, but there is nothing to suggest that they are yet in sufficient numbers to pave the way for an invasion of half a million men.

It would be an admirable thing if this intensified training could be extended to the millions of men now under arms and news that this corps has been formed in Britain recalls the suggestion of Colonel Drew that Canada, with its tremendous spaces, offers the best possible training ground for the great armies that will be engraved when British troops carry the war once more to the continent. One apparent difficulty with regard to Colonel Drew's proposal—whether it is an insuperable difficulty we do not know—is that the transportation of great numbers of men to and fro across the Atlantic would be more than could safely be undertaken at present. It should be possible, however, to begin in Canada the training of such shock troops as are now being trained in Britain and it might be possible that such a corps, with the prestige that attached to its great numbers, would offer an irresistable attraction to a great number of daring and self-reliant venturers across the line.

A character, moulded after the Christian type, is wholly devoid of scorn, except towards things that are base, or evil or unworthy.

WHY ON EARTH DO THEY DO IT?



... risk the loss of valuable personal belongings away from home

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The Poets' Corner

OCTOBER OAK

Dun in the Autumn twilight stands the oak,
A wraith at which a giant well might scare;
Its mighty shoulders shrouded in a cloak
As dark, almost as Death itself would wear.

Bronzed in the Autumn sunlight stands the oak,
A brawny being, fit to face the day;
Its rugged arms extended to invoke
A blessing on whoever comes its way.

—Al Graham in the New York Sun

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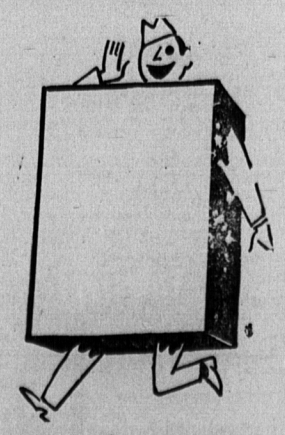

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