

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1946

Norse Relics in Newfoundland

According to a correspondent in The Telegram, a Newfoundland exchange, Mr. A. M. Mallory, an archaeologist of Summit, New Jersey, discovered in Pistolet Bay and in other parts of the Northern Peninsula evidence to establish beyond doubt that Norse voyagers had located there. Sites of Viking camps or winter quarters, it is stated, were found in Pistolet Bay as well as stone shipbuilding tools at Sops Arm and Engle. The discoveries are reported to have satisfied the archaeologist that they confirm much of what had been related in Norse sagas of the voyages of Lief Erikson and other Vikings and the previously unexplained situation of Vinland.

Confirmation of the results of the historic research will be awaited with keen interest throughout the world as throwing light upon a chapter in history which at present for the most part is legendary. Out of the shadowy mythology of the sagas, however, have been established beyond question that the Northmen, following the discovery of Greenland in 985, pushing or were driven by storms further west and came upon lands which they named Vinland and Markland. Among these outstanding voyagers are mentioned Eric the Red and his son Lief Erikson. Historians who have attempted to discover from the sagas the localities mentioned have come to different conclusions, but it seems that the views of Professor Gustaf Storm of Christiania University are most generally accepted that the lands reached were Labrador, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.

Freight Rates

It is announced that the Maritime Transportation Commission will oppose the application filed by the Railway Association of Canada with the Board of Transport Commissioners for an increase of 30 per cent in basic freight rates on most of the commodities the railways carry in the general course of business. This is not surprising, and similar opposition is already in evidence in other parts of Canada, especially in the Western Provinces. Coal and coke are excepted from the railways' application for the 30 per cent advance, which however applies to all other commodities.

"Even without anticipating any immediate advance in railwaymen's wages," comments the Sydney Post-Record, "it cannot be disputed that the per ton cost of handling rail freights is considerably higher now than it was seven years ago. As against this of course is the fact a greatly inflated volume of freight traffic has tended to reduce the per ton cost of its transportation. Nor should the circumstance be overlooked that the railways have derived more profit on their operations since 1938 than ever before in any comparable period in their history. There has however been a notable decline in loadings this year, and war conditions which, it is to be hoped, bring no more grief to the railways in the years to come. What does seem certain is that their operating costs must continue to expand, as the inflationary trend continues to make itself felt in bigger wages and higher commodity prices."

"It may of course be argued, fairly and quite properly, that this is no time for a general advance of railway tariffs, because the immediate result would be increases in the market values of the freights carried, whereas the War-time Prices and Trade Board is still on the job of establishing ceilings on market prices. Rail rates, one should think, ought to remain in step with obtainable commodity prices, and any noteworthy increase of the one should synchronize with a corresponding movement of the other. In point of fact there is reason to expect that this correlation will be kept in mind by the Prices Board, whose wartime powers still apply, under the Emergency Act, to railway rates as well as to other services, and to consumer commodities."

The Soil Miners

One aspect of the farm strike in Alberta has been all but completely obscured from public attention, says a Western exchange. That is the unsatisfactory farm conditions and the excessive cost of farm production due to soil depletion.

In consequence of wrong methods of cultivation—sometimes called mining—formerly rich lands have been exhausted. Even the extensive use of inorganic fertilizers—which is in itself a new source of danger—is failing to maintain yields at their one-time peak. Bumper crops during the war have provided soothing statistics, but on examination these are found to be deceptive. No account was taken of the thousands of acres of abandoned lands and no account was taken of the use of improved seeds. Even if the use of improved seeds increases production temporarily, it must surely tend to accelerate the process of soil-exhaustion.

In these circumstances, crops cost more to produce. Farmers' margins of profit tend downward. Food costs consumers more, or the taxpayers must pay more in subsidies. And food lacking in vitamins tends to physical and mental deficiency.

This generation is probably more "natural resources conscious" than any of its predecessors. There is more conservation work in progress and more attention is given to it by universities and governments than ever before. But there is a long way to go. The Canada we have

inherited from our predecessors is by no means as rich as the Canada of the early post-confederation period. The work of restoration will be long and costly. In the meantime there will be discontent among farmers and the general tendency will be for them to blame everybody but themselves. One factor back of the farm strike is the discontent caused by long continued misuse of nature's facilities and the resultant higher costs of production.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Festival of St. Luke.

Whatever Mr. Howe may think or do in the housing situation, the Province has the support of Mr. Bracken in considering the problem has been scandalously mishandled.

Veteran Winston Churchill has decided to write the "inner story" of the war. The wartime Prime Minister is expected to take two years to write the book, which would be published in two or three volumes.

Italy has been granted by the Mackenzie King Government a credit of \$3,900,000 as reimbursement for military expenses on behalf of the Canadian troops there to conquer Mussolini's Fascist government. The figure represents one-third of the total expenses borne by Italy in connection with Canadian warfare there.

According to C. P. correspondent Munro, when Hon. Brooke Claxton was in Paris at the Peace Conference, he was given a reception, and during the course of it he was asked, within fifteen minutes, by three Belgian delegates if there was to be another war soon. Munro, who has been roving over Europe, says the different capitals indicate the prevalence of a severe epidemic of jitters.

The Battle of Leipzig this date 1813. Up to this date Napoleon had carried everything before him against the Allied Nations, but in 1813, Austria joined forces against him and turned the tables. A series of minor defeats, balanced by a single victory, was followed by the decisive catastrophe of Leipzig, which enabled the Allies to carry the campaign into France. Napoleon fought with consummate skill, but was powerless against overwhelming numbers.

The difference between Prime Minister King and Premier Drew over the Interprovincial Conference is this: The Prime Minister considers difficulties between the individual provinces and Ottawa should be ironed out first individually, and subsequently approved by Conference; whereas the Premier contends the different provincial claims should be submitted to, and approved by, the Conference before being accepted and endorsed by the Federal Government.

Gen. A. G. L. McNaughton, Canadian delegate to the atomic energy commission, has offered to give the United Nations information on Canada's uranium and thorium mining. Gen. McNaughton said the Canadian Government was ready to supply considerable information on the first stage of atomic production because of her uranium and thorium mines. Under a rotation system by which the chairmanship of the commission changes monthly, Col. Mahomed Bey Khalifa of Egypt has succeeded Gen. McNaughton as chairman.

Substantial progress toward a drafting of a constitution and rules of the proposed Association of British Journalists in which will be merged the National Union of Journalists and the Institute of Journalists is reported by the two bodies. A joint statement said that the negotiators have agreed on many important points. One of the issues on which the union and institute have been publicly at odds is a proposal by the former for setting up by Parliament of a Royal Commission of inquiry into the financial control of British newspapers.

Arrangements now are being completed for an historic national ceremony in Ottawa early in January when citizenship certificates will be presented to new citizens representing each of the nine provinces. The ceremony is in connection with the Canadian Citizen Act passed at the last session of Parliament which goes into effect January 1. Prime Minister Mackenzie King, Chief Justice Thibodeau Rinfret of the Supreme Court of Canada, and State Secretary Martin, will be among those in attendance.

An intensive survey of the St. Lawrence waters is now under way and if successful will put thousands of dollars in the pockets of Maritime Canadian and Newfoundland fishermen. The survey, instigated by the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries, is the first attempt to chart the movements of herring. The project is financed by the provincial government and Newfoundland and the Dominion government. The 100-ton vessel Harengus, recently launched, will be fitted with scientific equipment and will shortly be sent to the area to join in the survey. Department officials predict that the search may last seven years.

Production of Dairy Products continued to decline in September with the month's output of Cheddar Cheese down to 17,144,000 pounds, a 30 per cent drop from the same month last year, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports. Production for the first nine months of 1946 was 120,271,000 pounds, 23 per cent less than last year. Pronounced reduction was recorded in the output of milk in August when the total was 1,765,000,000 pounds, eight per cent less than the same month of 1945. The total for the eight-month period was 11,951,000,000 pounds, a decline of four per cent compared with the same period of 1945. Holdings of cheese were reduced, amounting to 39,110,000 pounds compared with 43,106,000 on September 1, and 63,943,000 a year ago.

Notes By The Way

One centre of human activity is the mind. While the mind is fed it grows, becomes capable of more ambitious tasks and opens new avenues of thought in advance of previously won ground. Once that process stops, however, a deterioration sets in, and we call "age" leaves its mark and the essential self-confidence of the individual commences to wane. In that sense, "age" is an affliction of the mind before it is anything else.—Victoria Colonist.

Canadian-Chinese who served in the war are raising the question of their right to vote. The Chinese vote contented that since all Chinese-Canadians were subjected to military call and were required to fulfill their responsibilities of citizenship under the Canadian Mobilization Act, they should not now be denied the full rights and privileges of citizenship, including the vote. Naturalized Chinese should be treated exactly as naturalized people of other races are treated. Once they are accepted as citizens they should have all the rights of citizens.—Leitchfield Herald.

For whatever reasons, the Russian government apparently decided that the period of uncertainty following the end of the fighting was the best time for consolidating and extending its position in the world. The story of the last year is the story of Russian aggressiveness. In almost no instance have the Russians agreed without a struggle to the proposals of the other powers. In most instances, the Russians have insisted upon their own interpretation of existing agreements, using the power to veto when necessary to prevent adverse decisions.—Baltimore Sun.

If we were not a patient and long-suffering people we should have taken steps long since to do something about the apple pie situation in this country. Restaurants do a fair job, and sometimes a truly excellent job, with cherry pie, raisin pie, lemon pie, blueberry pie, butterscotch pie and so on but commonly what gets turned out and sold as apple pie is a dry, tasteless, unappetizing concoction that is an insult to a grand old name. There can't be any profound secret about the way to make good apple pies—our wives and mothers and grandmothers have been making them these many, many years. They have made and make apple pie that is rich, juicy, tasty, a delectable thing speckled with calories and vitamins and above all with flavor. Their apple pie isn't in the same world as the melancholy product that has to get its extraneous flavor from ice cream or cheese.—Ottawa Journal.

An independent democracy is in the making beyond the Arctic Circle. Greenland, the world's largest island in which less than 20,000 persons live along the coastline of a territory which comprises nearly 660,000 square miles and Denmark's only remaining colony is approaching the age of majority. The Greenlanders now want to have only one governor and one central council to be elected directly by the people. This would have the effect of diminishing the influence of the Danish officials.—Scandinavian News.

Those who talk of attracting foreign visitors to this country who are up against a Belgian came here when his country was overrun, served in the Belgian army worked for some years with the intelligence service and was given an O.B.E. He then went to Argentina on business, leaving his wife and daughter here. It has been found quite impossible to obtain a visa for him to return.—A Letter to the London Times.

This fall children who go to one Chicago public school will find 25 miniature pianos—not toys, but portable musical instruments—waiting for their music-hungry fingers, says Newsweek. They will owe this chance to an ex-Air Forces private, Harold E. Rhoads, who invented the original lap-sized piano from scraps of wrecked planes so that his disabled fellows could exercise their stiffened hands and divert their minds with music while in bed. The inventor, 16-pounder, is still largely made of war surplus materials. Instead of sitting in the player's lap, it rests on a tubular aluminum frame which curves up to hold the keyboard attached to a seat. Chicago is not the only large city school system to take up Pre-planes. Denver will also introduce them and other cities are thinking of experimenting with them as a definite prerequisite for the study of any musical instrument.

The Poet's Corner

I SOUGHT
I sought you, God,
Through the pain of time,
And the weariness of distance;
I sought you where the great winds break,
And in the houses that bear your name;
I sought you in the eyes of gentle men,
Where wisdom sits with age;
I sought you where the happy children run,
And where the sad ones weep,
I never found you,
And, ah! that in the draught of life,
I fell—lost in the desert of my seeking;
I closed my eyes to enter the silence of myself . . .
And there, in a flash of recognition,
I beheld you in my heart.

—William D. DeCoste, Canadian Army (Formerly of Charlottetown).

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.

CO-OPERATIVE FARMING FOR VETERANS

Sir,—Mr. John Mustard is to be commended for his advocacy of group settlement of returned men. I am sure, however, that he does not claim any originality in his suggestion of this scheme, nor do I claim any originality in having suggested it three years ago and in having continued to urge it ever since. This group co-operative farming was put in operation by the monks for the benefit of the Mexican Indians some centuries ago and carried on successfully for many years and until the monks were driven out. It has been carried on successfully in England, as well as in Western Canada. In 1943 the Provincial Post-war Reconstruction Committee was appointed of which Hon. W. H. Denison was named as chairman. In a rather long memorandum, which I submitted to him for the consideration of his committee, was a scheme for group settlement of returned men. I submitted the same proposition to Prof. F. Cyril James, L.L.D., chairman of the Dominion Advisory Committee on Reconstruction, in a letter to him bearing date the 3rd, May 1943. About the same time I discussed this scheme with Mr. Walter Shaw, with Mr. Campbell of the Soldiers' Settlement Board and with numerous leading farmers. In an address to the Grand Jury I elaborated this scheme, and it was favourably commented on by an agricultural commentator from Nova Scotia in an address over the radio.

One objection to the scheme that was made was the soldiers would not co-operate. I pointed out that during the War one of the things that was pressed in the different branches of the armed services was co-operation. I could not see why returned men could not co-operate as well as groups of merchants and industrialists do. Members of the Fishermen's Co-operative Union co-operate, and do so successfully. Why not returned men settled in groups? Granted that the terms offered returned men settling on the land are generous, still the overhead such that it will be difficult for a young man to succeed under their heavy burden.

A young man taking up farming if suitable buildings are on the land, has to stock the farm with cattle, horses and other livestock; he has to purchase machinery that will immediately enable him to do farming on a reasonably large scale to enable him to meet his obligations and live. In order to do so, he has to provide hired help. He is in a different position from a young man who is being settled by his father on a farm. In the first years of such a settlement, he has the use of his father's horses, machinery and farm help and he gradually builds up to the point where he can himself operate without such help. During the years when I was chairman of the Farmers-Creditors Arrangement Act I realized that a number of farmers who came before the Board had been surrounded by overhead.

Under group settlement, with the aid of a good tractor, a large motor truck, instead of four men keeping say three horses each eating their heads off during the winter months, could get along with one each; one set of agricultural implements would suffice, and by working together hired help would be unnecessary. Having been together during their time of service, and farming together, would provide the social intercourse necessary to young men. They could sit around the table and discuss their problems no doubt with an advisor provided by the Government. This is a mere outline which can be further elaborated, but by pooling their resources and the money granted to such men by the Dominion Government, they would have a far greater chance of making a success of farming than if they operated individually.

I am pleased indeed that Mr. Mustard has given thought to this scheme of group settlement, and if more people can be interested in it I am sure that it will be tried. There is no reason why groups of farmers should not try the scheme themselves. It is being attempted in some communities to a limited extent. Although I do not by any means pose as an authority, still I have given much thought to this phase of co-operative enterprise. Any farmer who has received much assistance from farmers and others with whom I was privileged to discuss the subject.

I am, Sir, etc.
A. E. ARSNAULT,
Charlottetown, Oct. 17.

Soldiers of Czarist Russia used to be given a bag of 2-5 pounds of sunflower seed a day as an iron ration.

Drive out ACHES
MINARD'S LINIMENT

PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE CONVENTION

A Convention of the Progressive Conservative Party Will be held in GEORGETOWN on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23rd, AT 2 P.M.

For the purpose of nominating two candidates to contest the Fifth District of Kings in the next Provincial Election. Poll Chairmen will please call meetings for the selection of delegates. E. B. McLAREN, ALEX McDONALD, Conveners.

Prime Minister King Losing Ground

(The Letter Review) The Prime Minister, according to reliable Ottawa reports, now alarms most of his faithful followers by his unwillingness even to discuss the urgent problem of the moment. He certainly gives his ministers no leadership.

Mr. King's career has been that of any patient opportunist. It has been a case of "wait—wait—perfectly—guessing as to what would be the best way of gaining votes. In 1919 the obvious opportunity was to capitalize the irregularity of conscription in Quebec and of war sacrifices in the rest of the country. This he did handsomely in 1921. In four years the new administration had lost the confidence of the country. It was defeated in 1925. Mr. King formed a coalition with agrarians from the West, which would have been defeated in the House, if the session of 1925 had not been ended by dissolution. The customs scandal, the Beaudin-Holmes and the Australian butter treaty would have ruined any government.

The constitutional crisis of 1926 is, of course, the worst blot on Mr. King's personal record. He succeeded in making a great many people in Canada believe that the Governor-General, doing his duty, had been guilty of undue interference in Canadian politics. The next election left the administration in a minority, dependent on an uneasy coalition. Hopelessly puzzled, Mr. King had nothing to offer the country in 1930, and Mr. Bennett's overwhelming self-confidence easily carried the day, with the results which are too well known to need mentioning.

The election of 1935 was won by Mr. King without the need of any statement of policy, beyond the repetition of the anti-conscription story in Quebec. He took office with no commitments, and drifted along with the slow economic recovery which was going on in the country and in the world.

The Second World War meant a certain victory for Mr. King in 1940. The common sense of the Canadian people revolted against poor Mr. Meighen's total lack of even a theory of government. The war years involved no decisions on the part of the prime minister. He merely drifted with events. He was particularly fortunate in having a group of civil servants at Ottawa who seriously believed that, by postponing all our economic difficulties, these could be left to solve themselves, and apparent success of the policy of raising everyone's wages, while keeping prices down, and covering up the discrepancies thus produced by patriotic appeals for Victory Loan subscriptions and taxation such as a country at war will readily accept, enabled Mr. King to coast into office again in 1945.

The payoff is now here. The hope of rapid recovery has been denied, chiefly because the government has entirely failed to grasp the situation in which wages are too high compared with prices, and with the government continuing to buy to believe that labour has naturally added to the difficulties, by demanding yet higher wages. The national economy has now reached a critical condition. The public cheerfully accept the baby bonus, but resent the taxes necessary to pay for it. The public like Mr. Gordon's low prices, but resent the shortages which these produce. The public like plenty of money in circulation, but resent the taxation necessary to prevent an inflationary price rise.

Mr. King now faces a condition in which whatever action the government takes will be unpopular. An administration which has asserted that it can control prices cannot make a price rise popular. An administration which has encouraged labour to believe that the most destructive war in history would end in higher standards of living cannot now announce with

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
The Annual Meeting of the Charlottetown Curling Club Limited will be held in the Club Rooms on MONDAY, OCTOBER 28TH, 1946, AT 8 P.M.

At this Meeting the following Resolutions will be made to amend and add to the Constitution and By-Laws:
(1) Amend by-law 10 by deleting the first sentence and putting in its place, "Thirty (30) member shareholders of record at the date of any Meeting shall constitute a quorum for such Meeting."
(2) Add by-law 25A—"Before any person may be considered a member of the Club after 1st November 1946 he must become a shareholder to the extent of, at least, one share of its Capital stock."

R. S. P. JARDINE, Secretary.

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