

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)
President: Lieut. Col. W. Chester S. McLure
Vice-President: J. R. Burnett, F.J.I.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
By Mail in P. E. I., \$4.00 per year; \$2.50 for 6 months
City Delivery: \$5.00 per year; \$3.00 for 6 months

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

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18, 1940.

B.N.A. Act And The Sirois Report

Among the submissions made to the Rowell-Sirois Commission in the course of its public hearings were a number on matters which the Commission regarded as being beyond its terms of reference.

The Commission report says: "The Province of Nova Scotia in particular stressed the need for devising procedure to this end, and this contention was in general supported by the Provinces of Saskatchewan, Manitoba and British Columbia."

The consent of every province should not be required to an amendment, except in matters involving minority rights. On the other hand, the Government of Quebec contended that the British North America Act embodied an agreement between the provinces, and as such was not amendable except by the consent of all the Provinces.

This question of scrapping the B.N.A. Act as an Imperial statute and allowing the Dominion Parliament to tamper with it unchecked, has been raised before. Prime Minister Mackenzie King called a Dominion-Provincial conference on the subject in January, 1936, and but for the stand taken by New Brunswick and Quebec the change would doubtless have gone through.

In view of the statement in the Sirois Report that Nova Scotia was chiefly responsible for raising this question before the Commission, would it not be well for our Maritime government representatives to get together and come to some understanding before the Dominion-Provincial conference meets at Ottawa?

What is the attitude of the Nova Scotia press and the present Nova Scotia Government on this point? Do they agree with former Premier Macdonald, now Minister of Defense for Naval Affairs, that power to amend the Act should be vested at Ottawa, that our rights as provinces should be in the hands of our Dominion politicians, and that "the consent of every province should not be required to an amendment"?

Dairy Production Problems

Since Oct. 1, butter purchases in Canada have jumped one-sixth over last year's level and taken an extra 7,700,000 pounds off the market. The increasing evidence of a shortage in butter by next spring, says an Ottawa correspondent, has already resulted in hundreds of families buying boxes of butter.

prices prevail. The biggest increase in buying came in October. While butter consumption was well up in November over last year, it dropped 10 per cent from the record level set by October.

Officials of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board deny that they have even considered rationing of butter, or restricting its use for non-essentials such as candy. Rationing measures, it is claimed, would involve the setting up of complicated machinery and are hardly necessary. Suggestions that restriction of cream consumption was under consideration were also denied.

Connected with the butter problem is the equally important one of cheese production. At a recent conference of agricultural department officials at Ottawa, it was estimated that to meet domestic and British demand for cheese and evaporated milk, an extra 640,000,000 pounds of milk will have to be produced in 1941.

These statements indicate that the dairy industry is facing a big production problem next season, and that federal and provincial policies must be co-ordinated under active leadership if satisfactory results are to be obtained.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Sir John W. Alcock, British Airman, killed while flying in Paris this date, 1919. He served with distinction in the Great War, being awarded the D.S.O.; was along with Sir Whitten Brown, the first airman to make a direct transatlantic flight from St. John's Newfoundland, to Ireland (June 1919), knighted for this feat.

The British public health authorities have rediscovered that one of the best prophylactics for disease germs is incense, and recommend it be used in air shelters. The Lancet, the chief medical journal in England, comments that it has taken another great war to realize the affinity between religion and public health.

The teachers are to be heartily commended for their endeavour to be specifically associated with the Battle of Britain by contributing a Spitfire air plane. We feel sure school trustees, parents and all connected with the teaching of the young will rally to the support of the teachers in their enterprise.

In contrast with the doubling of the prices for silver fox pelts in London, on the same day, Dec. 11, there was a collapse of the market for platinum in Oslo. The Nordiske Company's platinum fox auction was called off after a brief bidding session had failed to produce even the fixed minimum bids on a display of 100 excellent grade furs.

A good few will recall a visit here in 1921 of Dr. C. W. Saleeby, of London, who was a strong supporter of Prohibition. He was also one of the leaders in a campaign which led to the introduction of steel helmets in the World War. He died on Dec. 9. He had been advocating the use of body armor in the present war. Dr. Saleeby was an obstetrics specialist and founded the Sunlight League. He lectured on public health in the United States and Canada from time to time between 1919 and 1922.

Here is a tip to our accommodating Premier who authorized the illegal issue of Tourist's Scripts. In U. S. A. Prohibition Days, an actor went from Chicago, which was wide open, to Kansas, which was supposed to be hermetically sealed—bone dry, and this is the story he wrote home to Mother.

"You know how we get beer and stuff down in Kansas, don't you? No? Well, I'll tell you. We have to fill out a blank application for what we want, specifying the ailment for which the 'medicine' is wanted, and file it with the druggist. He keeps these applications and makes a record of them, and, at a stated time, has to submit a report of all sales to the probate judge.

"Well, when I first came into the state I wasn't up to snuff, and one Saturday night, wanting to get some beer for myself and some friends for over Sunday, I filled out a ticket on which I gave my name and these items: 'One quart whisky, for dyspepsia. One dozen bottles beer, for same.'

"There," said the druggist, as he put my bottles into a basket and gave me my change. 'If I succeed in curing you of all those troubles I want you to write me a letter of commendation, to be printed in the next almanacs my brewers and distillers are getting out.'

NOTES BY THE WAY

A lot of people are hoping Mussolini will come a complete cropper in Greece on the theory that he may then be overthrown by his army. The war will get out of the war and out of the war, and Germany will be awakened. There's no question that the Italians are fed up with the war and those especially since German-Russian manoeuvring took the spotlight — they feel Mussolini is no longer the fullback of Hitler's team, but only a water boy. — Minneapolis Star-Journal.

Pressing desperately forward, as we are, with our own defenses, we cannot divert everything to Britain. But we must go on the limit set, not by timidity, but by wisdom, for our own defenses are only the reserve line. So long as Britain stands the ground we reached, but it is most unlikely that they will ever need to be used. But only so long. The front line, our own front line, is the greatest and most difficult of Coventry or London, and that front line must be held if any aid to Britain by sea is to be of any value. — New York Herald Tribune.

The vast plains of Australia carry 110,000,000 sheep, yielding annually 1,010,000,000 pounds of wool worth to the world \$100,000,000. Although Australian flocks comprise less than one-sixth of the world's sheep, they produce more than one-quarter of the world's wool requirements, and maintain an industry with a capital value of \$2,000,000,000. Let us remember that while we are able to enjoy the festivities of this season in comparative comfort, there are millions in the Old World who have to undergo the terrors of almost continuous bombing. — Victoria, B.C., Colonist.

We should not revise the neutrality act to permit United States ships to carry non-military cargoes to British ports. We believe that it would be ridiculous to jeopardize the United States policy of aid to Britain by entering into the kind of disaster the extreme isolationists need to win support. — Our policy of aiding Britain without endangering America's neutrality has worked for more than a year, with conspicuous success. — New York Post.

About three o'clock one morning, receiving a tempestuous young man came to the girl he loved — a girl who an hour before had ordered him out of her apartment by throwing a chair at his head. The young man said, "Deposit five cents, please-uz," the operator said, "But I haven't got five cents, son with the young man said, "There was a pause, and then the operator said, "I will allow you five cents, five minutes." — The New Yorker.

A simple promise that the Japanese community do its level best in the future to continue its ever-growing support of the Welfare Federation and the Red Cross Society marked a short speech by Uchida at the closing banquet Tuesday night at the Hotel Windsor. Uchida, the Japanese division, according to the results of the vote, for his objective returns, exceeded its quota by 14 per cent. Complete returns showed an increase in the number of subscribers of some 400 people, and an increase in total funds of \$1,000 over last year. Late donations, it is expected, will complete the total. — Vancouver New Canadian.

America is the kind of a nation where a superintendent of parks (in Pueblo, Colo.) adjures park strollers not to steal nuts from the squirrels because it "destroys their sense of security for the winter." It's the kind of a country where a motorist will try to buy a ticket for a tip to stop and help you get your car out of a snowdrift. If we Americans are to be as gallant and cantankerous at times, we have more than a right to be. We may complain in a restaurant that the soup is cold, but the tip to mollify the waitress for our gruffness. Maybe the secret of our success in the world is our goodnatured tolerance of the "tips" of our neighbors. Let's not lose that. — Minneapolis Star Journal.

In the grounds of the Sacred Heart Church here there stands a monument marking the beginning of the year 1841-1880. It commemorates the arrival at the Rapids of St. Mary's three hundred years ago next year of the Jesuit Fathers Jolles and Raymbault and the long line of devoted and sincere men who followed in their footsteps in the succeeding centuries, men who did much to explore and open up this land and to bring civilization to it. The event is one of the turning points in the history of this district and the people of the two Basques might do well to co-operate in the celebration of the 300th anniversary next year. Even with the handicaps imposed by wartime conditions it is not one that should be overlooked. — Sault Ste. Marie Star.

Statistics released in Ottawa a short time ago, show that in the eight-month period ending August 1940, cheques were cashed by the chartered banks of Canada against international accounts, amounting to \$22,082,000,000, as compared to a total of \$19,900,000,000 for the previous year. We talk very glibly of our money deposits in our chartered banks. It is nice to learn too, that bank accounts are on the increase, because Government expenditures are running into the billions per year now, and before very long another Government loan will be asked for. That will give these monied Canadians another chance to issue cheques against their money deposits. — or else. — Huron Expositor, Seaforth.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest to the readers of the Guardian. The opinions of correspondents are not necessarily those of the editor.

TEACHERS' DRIVE

Sir,—As advertised in yesterday's press, the teachers of Canada have organized for the purpose of helping Britain in her gallant struggle against the forces of barbarism. It is the greatest and most difficult of tasks that they have ever endeavored to put across, and it is up to us, the teachers and citizens of Prince Edward Island, to see that the drive is as successful as far as we are concerned.

Already contributions are coming in to the central fund from many of the provinces of Canada. Let us not then delay in getting in our contributions and show the rest of Canada that the people of P. E. I. are wholeheartedly behind any effort that may help win the war. We are appealing to the general public because we feel that there are many people in P. E. I., particularly former teachers and friends of education who would like to make a contribution at this particular time and to this particular cause.

COMMITTEE IN CHARGE

LARGER UNITS OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION
Sir,—Today we shall deal with some defects of our present system of school administration as they affect the taxpayers, and explain how these could be remedied by the establishment of the Larger Unit System.

Educational authorities are agreed that equality of educational opportunity for our children, and equality of cost to taxpayers according to taxing ability should be guiding principles in the administration of our schools. In examining the reports of the Department of Education we find that the cost of educating the children in the different districts of our province varies a great deal—from 10c to about \$1.80 per \$100 of assessed value. Furthermore, in the smaller and poorer districts under our system the ratepayers cannot afford to offer large contributions to obtain the services of the best qualified teachers; frequently, of course, they do, but at great sacrifice in comparison with the richer and more populous districts. The establishment of the Larger Unit system would, to a considerable extent, equalize these situations, particularly as among neighboring districts within the same unit.

Under our present system each district looks after its own needs in respect to the purchase of equipment, furniture, school supplies, fuel, repair material such as shingles and paint, insurance, etc. Educational experts who have studied the operation of the Larger Units under wide varieties of circumstances in many countries tell us that there are great savings (up to 40 per cent) to be effected through bulk purchases and group insurance. Added to this it has been shown that the cost of administration is considerably less. The money thus saved could be used in supplying additional services to our schools.

With the coming of the Larger Units would disappear the local friction and animosities prevalent in many districts today. Frequently we find the ratepayers grouped in cliques each determined to secure control of administration. This results in much quarrelling and is responsible for holding up the progress of the schools concerned. Those who suffer most are the teachers and the pupils. In a pamphlet on the Alberta units, published under the authority of the Minister of Education appears the following: "It can safely be stated that the establishment of large administrative units has been instrumental in bringing about more peace and harmony in local communities than any other single factor in recent years."

WHAT DID YOU BUY TODAY?

Sir,—The clothes you wear, the beverages you drink, the presents you give this Christmas, can help win this war. Do you realize that if each Canadian spends only 50c a day on British goods, that would make a profound difference to Britain's financial position? What did you buy today? During happier times the answer made little difference to anything your family budget. Today every purchase you make affects the Empire's war effort. Used to the fullest advantage the resources at our disposal form an unbeatable combination, but how efficiently these resources are used depends upon the every-day shopping lists of Canadian housewives. That puts it up to you and me! Britain's exports are a life-and-death matter. "Export trade" said Sir Andrew Dunning, president of the British Board of Trade, is a fourth arm of defence in modern warfare, and Britain must export or die. The fourth arm is cashing in as never before on the deeds of explorers, traders, and prospectors who neopoleon Britain's past. The daring of countless unremembered men paved the way for Britain's control of the bulk of the world's supply of wool, jute, tin, copper, and vital minerals. Even the botanist and horticulturist have left legacies that now add enormously to the economic strength of the Empire. Because of the exploits of a botanist and a horticulturist we now control 80 per cent of the world's rubber, and 80 per cent of the world's supply of tea. Business in tea alone brings in an income of \$250,000,000 a year. Canadian housewives have discovered that tea in war-time is a more useful institution than it was in peace-time. Tea is doing a two-fold job all over the Dominion—aiding the

British government, which has become the distributor of the Empire's tea industry and stimulating the efforts of voluntary workers—a cup of tea is a wonderful mixing agent. All the effort and courage of the mercantile marine would be of little use if a steady market for exports is not found abroad to help pay for urgently needed tanks and planes. Only last month Britain added to her already huge orders, further requests for great quantities of honey, fruit, dairy products, meat, and fish. Ships that leave our shores laden with these must return with exports from Great Britain. Tea will help. The most valuable sources of foreign exchange for Britain include tea, wool, copper, tin, jute, rubber and linens. Tea is, in fact, one of the most valuable single sources of Britain's foreign exchange. There are no guides to tell us what to buy and a "made in England" label does not identify all goods whose sale benefits Britain.

Every pot of tea made brews trouble for Hitler; and the same goes for a ball of yarn, a knitted suit, a new tire, a rubber hot water bottle, a tin toy, any product from common sense under British control. Cotton, coal, and china are valuable British exports; in spite of the submarines, and raiders "Britain Delivers the Goods," the four words breathe courage and defiance and magnificent confidence. Their truth is proclaimed by the tons of British goods on display in our stores.

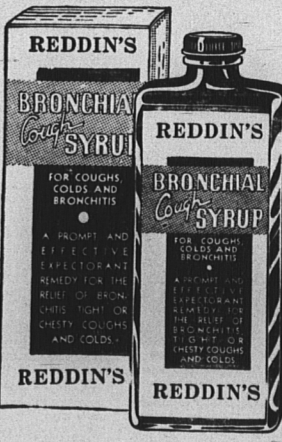
So check your shopping list, adjust your living habits before Hitler gets a chance to do so; spend your dollars in ways that help; see that you do not spend thoughtlessly in ways that dissipate part of our strength. What did you buy today? I am, Sir, etc.

HOUSEHOLDER.



IF I SHOULD EVER BY CHANCE
If I should ever by chance grow rich
I'll buy Lodham, Cockridgen, and Underditch,
Roses, Pyro and Lapwater,
And let them all to my elder daughter.
The rest I shall ask of her will be only
Each year's first violets, white and blue.
The first violets and orchids—
She must find them before I do,
That is,
But if she finds a blossom on furze
Without rent they shall all for ever
Be hers.
Cockham, Cockridgen, and Childerditch,
Roses, Pyro and Lapwater—
I shall give them all to my elder daughter. —Edward Thomas.

Children immunized against diphtheria in the first year of life should be examined again when they start to school—immunization is not always permanent, tests show



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These come singly and combined—nicely boxed for Xmas.
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COME EARLY AND SEE OUR GOODS — YOU CAN MAKE A BETTER CHOICE

E. A. FOSTER Central Drugstore

ANOTHER MASCULINE TRADITION SHATTERED
ANNAPOLIS, Md., Dec. 17 — A longstanding masculine tradition at U. S. Naval Academy is going by the boards. This season, for the first time women will be allowed to take part in a play presented by the midshipmen's Masqueraders Club. Heretofore, middies have played feminine roles.

Here's Some Suggestions Of PRACTICAL GIFTS FOR HER
Keystone Toilet Sets
Yardley's Gift Sets
Perfumes
Max Factor Gift Sets
Toilet Water
Compacts
Ashes of Roses Gift Sets
Solve Your Gift Problem in An Easy Way!!

FOR HIM
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Yardley's Gift Sets
Balls Razors
Colgate Gift Sets
ALSO
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