# THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1944


## An Optimistic Report

The maintenance of service standards in the face of new records in tonnage and passenger traffic is emphasized as a major achievement in the annual report of Mr. R. C. Vaughan, chairman and president of the Canadian National Railways. The system is carrying twice as much freight as in the years before the war, and nearly four times as many passengers, and, as the president points out, this unprecedented volume of traffic is being handled without any great addition to equipment. It is estimated that not less than 82,000,000 tons of revenue freight, and 36,000,000 passengers, were handled in 1944, an increase of 2 and 4 per cent respectively over the preceding year.

Increases in wage rates and cost of materials have cut into the net revenue of the railway, but the system is still in a position to turn over a cash surplus to the Federal treasury after the payment of interest due to the public and the government.

Much has been demanded of the system and its employees throughout the year. President Vaughan refers with pride to 20,000 C. N. R. personnel who have enlisted for active service. On the home front too, the record is a meritorious one. In the Seventh Victory Loan Canadian National employees broke all their records by subscribing $13,733,550, the largest contribution of any group of employees in Canada.

Close attention is being given to post-war problems of reconstruction. Research has been made and plans prepared for better passenger transportation facilities. "The railways", says Mr. Vaughan, "are alive to the fact that competition with other forms of transport will be accentuated after the war and they may be depended on to keep abreast of the times and provide the service that will insure them their fair share of the traffic."

Let us hope that Prince Edward Island will not be overlooked in the contemplated improvements, notwithstanding that competition with other forms of transport is less noticeable here than it is in the larger provinces.

## Health Week In February

Many Canadian communities at the request of the Health League of Canada will observe a Health Week in February, the observance to coincide with the holding of National Social Hygiene Day, Feb. 7. Health Week will open Sunday, Feb. 4.

Purpose of the "Week" is to bring messages to Canadians on health as a basic factor in their lives—personal, communal and national. The League contends that only a nation of optimum health can discharge fully such great international responsibilities as will have to be undertaken by the Dominion in the coming year.

Endorsation of the Health Week plan already has been received from departments of education and health in six provinces. Also churches, schools, home and school associations and numerous women's and other organizations and service clubs have indicated a desire to co-operate in the extensive and ambitious program which is in course of preparation.

## Sense Of Proportion Needed

With the first shock of the German offensive over, it may be well that we keep some sense of proportion. What has happened, suggests the *Ottawa Journal*, isn't nearly as bad as some of the black pessimists (sometimes yesterday's wild optimists) try to make out. The enemy has struck a powerful blow, revealed unsuspected strength; but that doesn't mean that all our generals have suddenly become dunces and all the German generals suddenly become geniuses, that the Allies are breaking up in dissension, with their old idealistic professions either repudiated or violated, and things generally in a terrible way.

Indeed, recent dispatches indicate that the Allies are already staging a tremendous comeback. The enemy, after a series of disasters, achieved a brief success in a single theatre, but that success doesn't affect the general war position, nor avert inevitable German defeat.

A great need of this time is a way of looking at things that permits us to see the forest instead of some particular trees; that avoids foolish optimism on the one hand and equally foolish pessimism on the other.

## Crime In Wartime

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports a decrease in the number of adults convicted in 1943 as against the previous year. The figures are: For 1943, 507,807; for 1942, 620,673. This decrease was the first recorded since 1932.

It is interesting to note that, though there was a general decline in the number of adult convictions in 1943, there was an increase in the number for indictable offenses. However, despite the fact that the figures issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics are no certain guide on the fall in adult crime in Canada, they provide a strong barometer as to conditions.

Whether adult crime and juvenile delinquency will take an upward swing in the difficult years after the war is won depends on many factors. Not the least of those, says an exchange, are the home, church, school, for it is pretty well understood that there will be stresses bearing heavily on the growing child. There is much that the church and the school can do; but without the intelligent support and interest of the parents the greatest headway cannot be made.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

The last market for the year.

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Quite a few Islanders are home from the West, enjoying leave.

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Latest figures show that the number of Boy Scouts in the United Kingdom now stands at 436,871, an increase of 2,000 over the 1938 total.

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British Restaurants, inaugurated during the war to serve meals at popular prices to war workers, may continue after the war. At present 622,000 people are fed daily at an average cost of 26 cents for a three-course meal.

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A Belgian Dominican who was arrested by the Gestapo because of the sermons he had preached at Liege formed the subject of a recent item in the BBC's European Service. He spent two years in a German prison along with German Catholic priests, and he has reported a remarkable tribute to Mr. Winston Churchill from a German priest. This priest said to him one day: "Winston Churchill deserves a monument in gold. It is he who has saved European civilization."

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The $2,500,000 estate of Sir William Mulock includes $441,422 in real estate, $25,816 in mortgages, $530,000 in stocks; $1,372,073 in bonds; $85,689 in cash; $44,327 in book debts and $44,327 in miscellaneous property. Provision is made for an annuity of $1,200 to Miss Rosamond Pratt, housekeeper, with legacies of $6,000 for James Clark, gardener, $6,000 to John Holden, chauffeur, and $4,000 to Miss Isabel Proustie. After providing for trusts and legacies, including $50,000 to Prime Minister King, the residue is devised to Hon. W. P. Mulock, grandson.

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William Ewart Gladstone, British statesman, born this date 1809; in politics he started out as a "stern unbending Tory" and Protectionist, but in the course of his political career he swung round to the advocacy of Liberalism and Free Trade, becoming Prime Minister, a position he held in four governments; Gladstone has been described as a brilliant departmental head, a magnificent party leader and orator, and probably the greatest British parliamentarian since Pitt. Having refused an Earldom, he spent his remaining years in retirement, and on his death in 1898, was buried in Westminster Abbey: "National injustice is the surest road to national downfall."

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The volume of wholesale and retail trade in the Maritime Provinces continues at a high level, with sales reported in excess of a year ago, notwithstanding limited supplies. Collections are good. Christmas buying commenced early and indications are that the holiday trade will exceed that of any previous year, says the Bank of Montreal report for December. Logging and pulpwood operations in November were retarded by wet weather; the supply of labour has improved to some extent. The demand for wood products continues strong. Fresh fish landings during November were below average, due to unfavourable weather conditions. There is a heavy demand for dried fish; prices are at a high level and stocks continue to move to export markets on a quota basis. Manufacturing plants for the most part continue to operate at capacity. Coal production in Cape Breton in November increased slightly as compared with the previous month, but was lower than in the same month last year. The potato market is dull; starch and dehydration plants are operating at capacity.

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Arrangements of payment for Canada's war exports have been part and parcel of her wartime public finance, says the Canadian Bank of Commerce report. Her gift to the United Kingdom of $1,000,000,000 in 1942, her funding of sterling balances in Canada by a loan of $700,000,000 in the same year, her repatriation of the British equity in the fixed capital of war plants in Canada amounting to $205,000,000 and her contribution to United Nations Mutual Aid ($1,270,400,000 to the end of October last) all these have gone to finance Canada's war exports to the United Kingdom and other Allied Nations. Even so, the shrinkage of London's Canadian dollar balances has recently forced some curtailment of purchases from Canada. Negotiations are now in progress to arrive at some way out of the difficulty. This brings into relief that the demand for Canadian products abroad, however greatly they may be desired, will not necessarily mean that sales of them can be made. The purchasers may not have the required Canadian funds of their own with which to buy these products. If the Bretton Woods agreements were to be made effective by action of the Governments represented at the relative conference, currency stabilization should be feasible and some working balances of exchange could probably be supplied to needy countries, while specific projects of reconstruction and development could be financed between nations. But it would be well to recognize that in the final analysis trade is an exchange of goods and services, and therefore that Canada could find markets abroad by importing substantial quantities of other countries' exportable products, from the proceeds of which they could buy Canada's wares. For the protection of Canadian exporters in the period of transition, the Canadian Government recently passed the Export Credits Insurance Act, which was designed to aid in the re-establishment of Canadian export trade in commercial goods.

## Notes By The Way

**Chess, with its still untried plays** is 6,000 years old. — Los Angeles Times.

**The Allies must now keep on** watch for the Whine. — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

**A young couple who have just** been married are driven up and down the main street to the accompaniment of much horn blowing, but a young man who has lost a leg in the greatest adventure of all time is allowed to come into town with no more notice than if he had committeed a crime. —Midland Free Press Herald.

**The wartime savings of the small** investor in Britain amounted to $12,000,000,000 as of the end of July. This great total, announced by the National Savings Committee, represents "small" savings only and it is made up of money invested in savings certificates, in defence bonds, and in increased deposits in the post office and trustee savings banks.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

**Once again we admit that tired** feeling which always overtakes us when we sit by the radio and hear one of these academic so-called economists dilating on the way to make Canada prosperous and to do away with unemployment, and who take fifteen minutes to tell us all about it without mentioning that there is in Canada such an industry as agriculture. — Lethbridge Herald.

**Only knowi now, it is remark**able to note that British salvage men have lifted from the bottom of the sea, where they had been sent by enemy action, 2,500,000 tons of ships—250 ships of 10,000 tons each. Now those ships are as good as new and helping to battle the enemy and to bring supplies to the people and the armies which use Britain as a base. — Niagara Falls Review.

**Near the little cottage where** Col. John McCrae, writer of "In Flanders' Fields," was born, a memorial garden to the poet will be established, a dispatch from Guelph says. Nothing could be more appropriate than a memorial garden to the man who immortalized the poppy, particularly those blooming "between the crosses row on row" in Flanders' Fields. — Lethbridge Herald.

**If I were asked to define a good** company, I would say — it is a good place to work, to sell to, to buy from, to invest in and to have in a community. There are thousands of companies in Britain that will stand these five tests. They are the solid framework of our business structure. Any scheme or legislation that will endanger such companies will create unemployment and poverty. There are some silly people abroad just now who need to be told this. — Efficiency Magazine, London, England.

**One of the most astonishing** records of the war is found in the revelation that in the movement of 10,600,000 British Army personnel by sea up to the end of September, only 2,978 lives were lost by enemy action, a number which makes up only .0028 per cent of the total. Considering the elaborate preparation the enemy had made and the big start it had in both submarines and airplanes, this is an astonishing achievement and it was due not only to safe-guards maintained by the Royal Navy and the R.A.F., but to good planning at the War Office. — Sault Ste. Marie Star.

**In a world of horror and ugli**ness, and pagan darkness, it is not, ask the cynics, "sheer mockery to observe Christmas this sixth year of a great and terrible war"? And the answer? Simply this — one of the things we are fighting for is that there may always be a Christmas; so, whatever the effort this year, we must observe it for the sake of the past and the future. It is not that we should be satisfied to keep Christmas by revelry and feasting. Rather should we reflect on its true significance. It is, says one, "a sample day put in by God to keep the world from rotting." We cannot afford to let Christmas go. We shall always need it until its helpful spirit is merged forever in the everyday of life. Till then, may the home festival of Christmas still be the principal method of celebrating the day.—Halifax Herald.

**Constant complaints are heard** about having to start out from home these mornings while it is still dark, says the Edmonton Journal. But very real compensations are found by some people. One of them tells of what pleasure it gives him to keep his chin up as he walks along and looks at Cassiopeia's Chair in the northnorthwest and Orion riding to the west. Then, before the journey to work is completed, the eastern sky may be illuminated. How could anybody fail to be deeply moved by the beauty of the sunrises that have ushered in fine winter days of late. Many had never witnessed such displays until the introduction of daylight saving and on that account they ought to be grateful that the clocks were moved ahead as a war measure. After all, it is a great deal better to see lovely sunrises than merely to read the rhapsodies about them in which the poets have indulged from time immemorial.

**"Man is the principal butt of** laughter," says Encyclopaedia Britannica, which further states that laughter is mainly a human phenomenon. "Among lower animals, it is a very rare occurrence if it is met with at all." When your dog gives the appearance of laughter, just remember that he is not really expressing himself the same as you do when you laugh, no matter how remarkable your dog happens to be. Laughter benefits the lungs and is an outlet for some forms of superfluous energy. Laughing helps man to forget the present and helps him to face the future. Psychologists further state that laughter requires the sympathy of a group and that it is no fun to laugh alone. For instance, when you hear a story told at the next table in a restaurant you do not break out with a roar even though everyone in the party at the next table does laugh. One psychologist quoted by Encyclopaedia Britannica states the laughter is a kind of social ragging, a method of breaking in people to the forms and conventions of society, a way of curing eccentricity and unsociability.

## Floor Prices For Agriculture

(Bank of Nova Scotia Monthly Review.)

IV

Preventing chronic surpluses would seem to be largely a question of keeping floor prices reasonably in line with market prospects. To some extent, of course, it is within the power of the government to influence the demand both by extending inter-governmental export contracts — which may be vitally important at least in easing the transition from war to peace—and by taking steps to expand domestic consumption.

The Advisory Committee on Reconstruction suggested in its report that the attainment of a satisfactory level of nutrition in Canada would appreciably enlarge the market for farm products. In particular, a study made for the committee by Dr. W. C. Hopper led to the conclusion that a nation-wide school lunch and school milk program would have value both in bettering the health of the Canadian people and in aiding the farmer.

There is every reason for seeking to enlarge demand as much as possible by such measures as these. The amount of production disposed of may be as important to the farmer as the price received: indeed, a large production sold at a moderate price may be more to his advantage than a restricted production offered at a high price.

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When the principles for setting floor prices have been established, there still remains the question of how they are to be implemented. There are two general methods by which this can be done. One is the purchase method, under which the government would undertake to purchase commodities at a set price. It would thus become the owner of quantities of produce whenever floor prices were operative and would assume the responsibility of disposing of them. If the periods of operation were not too long-continued, the government might dispose of its purchases without loss and without undue storage and administrative difficulties.

If, however, purchasing had to continue for a long time, unmanageable surpluses might accumulate in government hands, while the fact that prices had been artificially kept up would involve all the difficulties of selling abroad at a loss and meeting the objections of other countries to this practice. The other method is that of subsidy, under which the market would be allowed to find its own level, while the farmer would be compensated by payments representing the difference between the market price and the floor price. The advantage of this technique lies in allowing the price system to distribute the supply, and thus reducing the risk of piling up large surpluses. From a general economic point of view it has the further advantage of sustaining farm purchasing power without keeping up prices to consumers.

**Floor Prices and Farm Income**

There are many who see in the stabilizing influence which a properly administered system of price floors could exert upon farm prices, in the minimizing of the risks and uncertainties which have characterized farming as an industry, a valuable element in a forward-looking farm policy. They admit that setting floor prices at levels calculated to call forth the amounts of the various commodities which the market may be expected to absorb, might give the farmer average prices over a period of years little higher than those which would have resulted from a free market. But they point out that the benefits in terms of increased security and efficiency would be substantial—the provision of an assured market at an assured price, the shifting to government agricultural officials of the task of assessing probable demands, the assumption by the government of the risks involved in this prediction, and finally the assurance that ruinous price declines would not be allowed to occur.

Floor-price programs, however, cannot be expected to solve the entire farm-income problem. As has been pointed out above, difficulties immediately arise when they are employed with the primary objective of raising farm incomes. The price mechanism, appropriate for guiding production, cannot perform this function effectively if the attempt is made to use it simultaneously for income-raising purposes.

One authority has said, "Until the problem of...guiding production and the problem of improving the distribution of income are separated and seen as two distinct issues, no rational economic solution can be forthcoming." This statement does not imply a neglect of the farm-income problem. The attainment of a measure of equality in living standards between rural and non-rural sections of the community is recognized as a legitimate objective of farm policy. But supplementary measures, outside the floor-price program, appear to be the most effective means of working towards it — measures which could be carried out without endangering the success of the floor-price program in discharging its basic functions of stabilizing prices and guiding production.

(To be concluded)

## The Poet's Corner

**ALL THAT REMAINS**

All that remains of Summer now—
Here in this Winter - stricken wood—
Is a barren nest upon a bough
Swinging in windy solitude.

Yet it were better thus to see
Summer abandoned in December
Than that these leafless limbs should hold
Nothing to cherish and remember.

Love, let us make the most of time,
That we shall find, when youth departs,
The memory of these hours of love
Hanging like Summer in our hearts.

—Anderson M. Scruggs, in the New York Times.


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## Military Position At The Year's End

By DeWitt MacKenzie
Associated Press War Analyst

Despite the dampening effect of the German counter-offensive, we can approach an assay of the year-end military position from the rock-bottom fact that the Allied cause—on the whole—is going well the globe around.

When you've added up and make subtractions, the answer is that the Allies can't lose except through their own folly.

One of the burning questions in all minds is how long the war will last in Europe. There's no satisfactory answer to that. It depends first on the outcome of the titanic battle which is growing out of Field Marshal Von Runstedt's counter-offensive.

Gen. Eisenhower still has his chance to administer a knockout to Von Runstedt and so force an early peace. On the other hand, if the German survives his terribly dangerous thrust into the middle of great Allied strength, then we may find him retiring slowly and resuming his fight in the powerful Siegfried defences west of the Rhine, thus protracting the war.

Our safest course is to adopt the hard-boiled theory that the German war will go on indefinitely.

* * *

One element in shortening the war remains in anticipation — a full-dress Russian offensive against the Nazi Vistula Line in Poland. That might change the complexion of things quickly by putting the Nazis between two mighty millstones. It's unlikely that Germany could long withstand wholesale major offensives on both eastern and western fronts. A Red assault against the Vistula may soon complement the magnificent Muscovite drives into Hungary and Slovakia.

We musn't overlook that the Germans appear to have committed their full strength to the counter-offensive in the west. They've gambled almost everything. Sure sources of information agree that Germany's rapidly deteriorating resources are vastly inferior in all categories to those of the Allies. That's equally true of manpower and materiel.

It's amazing to see them dig up sufficient strength for their present drive. As a matter of fact their attack likely would have died at birth had it not been for somebody fumbling the American military intelligence. The U.S. armies were caught off guard and heads may roll for that.

* * *

Many experts figure it may take 18 months or so to finish the Japanese off after Germany surrenders. Maybe that guess is as good as any.

Conclusion of the European war will release vast striking-power to be employed against the Japanese. Already the British have moved big supplementary naval forces into the Orient. More than 2,000,000 Indian troops are trained and under arms, waiting for possible employment in reclaiming Burma and the East Indies.

The Allied position is good for the final onslaught. They've broken the back of the conquest of the Philippines. They've established bases from which they are hammering at Japan's life-line to her Indonesian supplies. They are reaching Tokyo and other Japanese cities almost daily with Superfortresses.

## Meeting In Germany

(Capt. Sinitsyn in U.S.S.R. Information Bulletin)

It was so quiet in this German house on the edge of the town of Schirwindt that one could hear the needles of a pine branch scratching on the windowpane . . . .

Early that morning people had begun to arrive at the house: hungry, weary people in ragged clothing, returning from German bondage to Kursk, Gatchina, Pskov and Velikie Luki. They showed us their festering wounds and ugly scars. Some managed to give their addresses before they slumped to the floor; others fell to their knees because they could no longer stand on their blistered feet. There was one little girl of about 11 carrying a baby on her shoulders. Both children were barefoot. They had just come from across the frozen Sheshupa River.

Vassili Pavlovich Nabokov, a citizen of Vitebsk, told us he had seen many Soviet people buried alive in a pine grove on the bank of the Sheshupa. Pointing to a boy of about six and a girl slightly older, he said, "These are my children." Their names were Misha and Tamara.

Nabokov sank into a chair and covered his face with his hands. His hair was gray and his wooden leg was vivid evidence of his sufferings in a German concentration camp. The children clung to him without a word.

"My own children disappeared while we were being driven from Vitebsk," he said. "My heart broke thinking about them. It seemed as if I could always hear them moaning . . . . Then I adopted Tamara and Misha. They were sick when I found them on the road."

Later two Red Army men came in to spend the night. They asked for a drink of water, lay down on the floor and were immediately asleep. The house was silent. . . .

About nine the next morning the Red Army men got up, said goodbye and started to leave. One of them had already crossed the threshold when little Tamara suddenly cried "Papa!" She rushed to the soldier and threw her arms around his neck.

The Red Army man — Terenti Vlasov, from Streletskaya village in the Kursk Region — embraced and kissed Tamara and Misha, his children, whom he had given up as lost forever. They had been driven away to Germany with their mother.

Holding the children in his arms, Vlasov made his way to the far end of the street where a column of Red Army men was preparing to move forward in East Prussia.

Nabokov hobbled along beside them. Suddenly Misha clutched the Order of Glory on his father's chest. "Papa," he said, "the Germans killed Mama."

Vlasov held the child closer to his breast and looked toward the West, where the thunder of battle grew steadily in volume.


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