

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1940.

More Than Talk Needed

Neither our Minister of Agriculture nor his Deputy is at home this week to address the annual meetings of our farm organizations. They are at Ottawa attending a belatedly-called conference to discuss the exorbitant cost of feed prices for Maritime hog and livestock producers. This conference should not only have been called months ago, but the whole problem should have been settled by this time. The very moment that the British-Canadian bacon deal was consummated, with its immense possibilities, our provincial and federal representatives should have been demanding adjustment of mill-feed and freight rate charges on a basis more equitable to our farmers.

Added to these disadvantages have been the huge importations of American pork into Canada during the last few months and the prospect this year of such imports increasing to as much as 10,000,000 pounds, which will mean 1-2 to 7 ct. pork in the Maritimes. The production of these hogs is bonused in the United States and they come in duty free under a "drawback" arrangement. What chance have our Maritime farmers to meet such competition, and why should they be forced to?

Producers throughout Canada are demanding that an embargo be placed on these pork imports. The King Government is reportedly against any "hasty action", but it is hoped that our Maritime agricultural ministers will prod it into some show of activity. Presumably they have a brief which they are submitting to the federal authorities. In view of the importance of the subject, they should not stop at that. There must be several briefs at Ottawa on high feed costs, as well as dozens of resolutions and protests from farm organizations, boards of trade, etc., as to the danger facing the Maritime bacon industry. What is needed is more aggressive action in pushing our claims for attention upon the Government.

Why Not, Mr. King?

According to Mackenzie King, a national war government would be akin to dictatorship. Mr. King, valiant champion of parliamentary rights (he scuttled Parliament last January) says the only democratic procedure is to re-elect him and his partisan Liberal colleagues to power in this crisis in Canada's history. But what of Great Britain, which has a national government along the lines that Dr. Manion proposes to form in Canada; a government that has functioned as no other administration could have done in wartime? Composed as it is of representatives of all party politics, profiteering and party favoritism have been eliminated in the Old Country and the concentration of effort has resulted in a very effective prosecution of the war against the totalitarian menace. Furthermore, the value of co-operation has been clearly revealed in the combined policies which Britain and France are pursuing on a solid front. Canada could very well adopt similar principles in government and thereby carry out our policies with a greater enthusiasm and a more wholehearted effort.

A Misleading Defence

Postmaster General Power, speaking at Kingston last week, in attempting to explain what the Government did with the \$188,000,000 given it by Parliament for defence preparedness, said, among other things, this:

"In 1935 there was not a single modern aircraft suitable for active service, but when war broke out there was dispatched to the Atlantic coast for the defence and control of our coastal shipping several squadrons of modern aircraft suitable for reconnaissance, army co-operation, bombing and fighting."

And further:

"For Canada's air defence, apart from the British Commonwealth air training plan, it was estimated 325 aircraft would be required. When war broke out there were about 300 with 100 more under construction."

These two passages, says the Ottawa Journal, are inaccurate, and misleading because they do not tell the truth that many, perhaps half of these 300 'planes were obsolete; some of them fit only for the junk heap.

Instead of having 300 serviceable or combat 'planes when the war broke out, Canada didn't have 50 serviceable, combat 'planes. More than that, most of the 'planes which were being turned out in Canada when the war broke out were already obsolete. Some of them—if reliable reports be accepted—were obsolete when they were ordered.

The Ottawa Journal concludes:— Mr. Power either does not know what he is talking about, or he evades the truth. The great trouble—is that the thing that is wrong about this election—is that there is no way of checking Mr. Power's statements. Had Parliament been permitted to sit for even a fortnight, Mr. Power—and the Government—could have been checked. Parliament could have been demanded papers, documents, correspondence; could have brought Defence Department officials before it to answer questions. It could have found out all about Mr. Power's 300 'planes; found out what sort of 'planes they were—whether

they were fighting 'planes or merely obsolete crates. Parliament, incidentally, could have compelled the Government to explain why a whole stretch of 12 months was permitted to pass without an order being placed in Canada for a single 'plane.

As it is, with no official information before us—and with none possible—we are expected to take the claims, generalities and half-truths of this politician and that—statements cooked up for the hustings.

Mr. Power's whole speech at Kingston, purporting to be a detailed balance sheet of the Government's preparedness effort, was useless; a hodge-podge assertion without proof; little better than insult to public intelligence.

Mr. Power and his associates must imagine the people of Canada to be political illiterates.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is reported Quebec Legislature is to prorogue April 1—"All Fool's Day."

Is this just another "Fish story"? Reports to the Bureau of Fisheries indicate that records of one penal institution reveal that among its inmates not one had fishing as a hobby.

Candidates are warned, by the censor no doubt, not to sign any pledges which would prevent their freedom of action in parliament. This is mere folly or camouflage for who ever knew a politician restricting his freedom to do what he liked about pre-election promises?

The Pasteur Institute has notified the Academy of Medicine that its Dakar branch has devised a special new mixed vaccine that simultaneously immunizes against smallpox and yellow fever for a period of one year. More than 100,000 natives of Senegal already have been immunized successfully by the serum, the institute said.

The lively Mae West has changed her slogan which was "Come up and see me sometime." She was sued by her co-author, Mark Linder, for \$1,000,000 profits on the movie "She Done Him Wrong". Miss West won without having to put up a defence, but during the hearing it was stated she is now 47 years old, and has an average income of a million dollars a year. Asked to comment on the outcome of the trial, Miss West chirped: "Come up and see me some time."

Rt. Hon. Sir John Simon, G.C.S.I., K.C., V.O., K.C., Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Chamberlain National Government, born this date, 1873, son of Rev. Edwin Simon, he was educated at Fette's College, Edinburgh, and Wadham College, Oxford. Leader of the Liberal National Party, and chairman of the Liberal Parliamentary Party. "In time of war there can be only one party, a National Party, though there may be diversity of opinions and convictions within that Party expression of which is possible through the medium of our Parliamentary system."

The advantage of the National protective policy is finely illustrated in Quebec's shoe industry which last year paid \$5,477,992 in wages to 12,340 persons, of whom 10,953 are regularly employed. This industry was born in the days of the French regime and, as the result of the National protective policy, remains one of the most important in the province. Some of its wares have won awards in international exhibitions, beauty being combined with utility in the exhibits. The manufacturers have had long experience and keep abreast of the times in their trade.

Charlottetown discriminated against again! Col. R. Landry, radio broadcasting censor states that no censor requested to see Rt. Hon. Mr. Cahan's speech and no censor read it. Under regulations that existed before the war the station manager had asked for a copy of Mr. Cahan's talk to keep on his file and this request had apparently been misconstrued as an order from the censor. Under the present regulations the onus is placed on station managers and speakers to see that the Defence of Canada Regulations are observed in any broadcasts. Should a doubt arise censors are available for consultation in ten cities. But Charlottetown the capital of this province has the indignity of having to send to Saint John for censorship! Isn't it time we had a National Government in power that would give us our rights and recognize our status? Why should we have to play second fiddle to Saint John or any other City? Of course, it may be assumed that we are all so loyal and law abiding that a censor would turn out to be of the nature of the fifth wheel to a coach.

The sadly dismayed Montreal Gazette, which at the outset was prepared to back Mr. Mackenzie King for all it was worth, which is very considerable, is becoming more and more disillusioned. "Mr. King (it says) appears to be recklessly inviting an electoral result of this character, the election of a House of Commons in which he and his party—if still in office—will be faced by two considerably strengthened Opposition groups, possibly three, none of which will share the political views of either of the others. In his second broadcast the Prime Minister accepted the Conservative leader's challenge and is prepared to stand or fall on the war record of his Government. That record, as revealed by him, is impressively favorable. Unfortunately, his presentation of it is marked by a number of quite important evasions and omissions, the former being specially noticeable in his reference to the air training project and what went before the air training agreement was reached. The omissions are also conspicuous in that Mr. King ignores altogether certain specific charges of inefficiency and partisanship which have been made against his Government and in regard to which his critics have quoted chapter and verse. These charges ought to be answered, if not by the Prime Minister, then by one or other of his colleagues. Mr. King himself gives the impression of being a very tired man."

NOTES BY THE WAY

Expansion of the Royal Australian Air Force to a strength of 19 squadrons will be completed 12 months ahead of schedule. That striking illustration of the acceleration of defence plans was announced by the Minister of the Army (Mr. Street), Australia, said Mr. Street, was destined to become one of the major aircraft-producing countries of the world. She was building machines for her own air force, and if necessary, she would build them for the whole Empire. Mr. Street said Australia, with Canada, stood pledged as the factory for the production of a vast air armada which might well prove at long last the weapon which would break Germany. When the full scheme of Dominion co-operation was in force there would be thousands of the most virile young aviators the country could produce putting to use their native skill and daring and resorting to the great Allied fight against tyranny and aggression. — Australia Press Union.

I recall with amusement still another little Army pay - day episode of 1918. The officer who was paying the pensioner was a conscientious middle-aged captain. He spoke to one of his men, again a full private when he took his pay. This man was drawing the full amount he contracted for, and was allowed towards his wife. Instead of 3s 6d, therefore, he was entitled to, and duly received, the sum of 10s. The captain took heed of the pay, and said quite kindly, "It is really no business of mine, but I'm sure you are a decent fellow, and don't you think you should deny your wife's allowance to the full 22s 6d a week?" To which the full private, with a respectful salute, replied, "Well, sir, I am allowing my wife 11s 500 a year while I'm serving. But if you think another half-crown a week would be useful to her I'm quite agreeable!" In those times, and even nowadays, it becomes the weaker the man, the more he is to be pitied. — Ottawa Journal.

Seven Sundays ago I last saw John Buchanan. He was reading the morning lesson at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, in Ottawa. He was only a few feet away, and I was possible to study him carefully. The impression remains. John Buchanan's face was not of a caste ally found among Governors general; nor were his quick gestures and rapid movements, nor his eyes; nor his previsions. Reading the lesson he gave one more vividly than usual that impression of sparseness with which, somehow, he carried out his duties. He did a good job—a good, methodical, restrained job, of which any kirk would be proud; he wasted no breath; he provided adequate replies; he closed the book neatly and walked rapidly back to his pew. To have done more, or less, would have been contrary to his training and his instinct. — Written for The Journal by D. Arvey Marsh.

The complaint current in Australia that the Royal Australian Air Force officers are over-p.m.s.c. and unreliable, and that the full truth about encounters with the enemy ought to be told, is, I believe, unjustified. I must point out full enquiry on this very point in several quarters recently—before the Australian complaints were published—and reached the ears of the British command. The complaints could be accepted without hesitation. In one case, as I learned from three or four different informants, an inaccurate report of a battle was made. The British had taken place, and when the first British machines returned to their stations the first enquiries led to the belief that we had lost several machines and men. The papers were clamorous for the news, and these not completely verified figures were released. Later it was found that the British had won more than 100 machines and men. The ratio between the two not being greatly altered. In the circumstances it was decided, I think wisely, not to issue revised figures. But the original statements, made in entire good faith, and I believe, as I say, that this is the only case in which there has been any inaccuracy at all. — London Spectator.

From the day Britain declared war, every night the street lamps have remained snuffed out. The motorists have been compelled on pain of prosecution and heavy fine to travel with snuffed lights. Householders have been warned not to let a glimmer of light escape seawards or even streetwards. In Singapore, the seat of Britain's most important naval base in the East, and Far East, they have no blackout. In Bombay, the important naval station and one of the great ports of the world, they have no blackout. Madras has no blackout. Calcutta, Hong Kong another important naval military station, situated within the Sino-Japanese War zone has no blackout. In view of the immunity enjoyed by these cities of equal, if no greater importance, the question has been asked why Colombo has been selected for a precaution neglected elsewhere. No satisfactory answer has been given. — Times of Ceylon (Colombo).

Once a brief New York cable was handed to a recently-joined sub-editor of the Reuter News Agency, London. After a perfunctory glance at it, he thrust it under the desk, on his desk, the customary repository for all messages of no apparent urgency. "These Yanks!" he exclaimed. "They seem to think we're interested in their blooming President's shooting excursions!" "How do you mean?" inquired someone idly. "Why," said the youth, picking up the cable again, "they seem to be arguing it's worth fivepence a word to tell us that McKinley's shot a buffalo!" "What's that?" remarked the editor-in-charge who happened to be passing. Then with a blow he snatched the cable from the editor's hand. It read "McKinley Shot Buffalo"—it was the first news of the American President's assassination. — Valentine Williams in "World of Action," (Hamish Hamilton).

Why Talk Conscription?

(Montreal Gazette)

Liberal speakers, including ministers, who cannot meet the demand for a national government except by suggesting that what is meant is a conscription government, and who cannot meet charges of faulty war administration except by insinuating that critics of the Government are endeavoring to break down the system of voluntary enlistment and substitute conscription, are doing no service to their cause. The Prime Minister himself has been guilty of this kind of thing and now we have the Minister of Justice, who should be above such tactics, imputing a conscription motive to those who have criticized the Government's war measures. He is quoted as having said "that nothing could be more harmful to recruiting" and that "any one acting as spokesman for those who give rise to such heinous reports cannot be considered as friends of the cause which we have at heart." And further: "I was told that those lies originated with persons opposed to voluntary recruiting who would welcome its failure and its replacement by conscription, a system which they support." It is not consistent with the record of Mr. Lapointe, or with the dignity of his office as Minister of Justice, that he should give utterance to a proposition of this kind with no better basis than is implied in the statement "I was told."

Role Of The Balkans

(New York Times)

The clash of German, Italian, Russian and Allied interests in the Balkans is so obviously economic that it is important to examine it in the light of available statistics. Much can be learned from data recently compiled by the Institute fuer Kon-Junktur-forschung of Vienna.

Though 49 per cent. of Balkan export and import trade in 1936 was with Germany (including Czechoslovakia and Poland), very little of it was of crucial military importance. Thus Germany obtained from the southeast only 1.15 per cent. of her iron ore, 7.34 per cent. of her petroleum and tar, 1.96 per cent. of her copper and 0.81 per cent. of her manganese. Of Rumania's oil only 448,000 metric tons out of a total production of 7,000,000 went to Germany in 1938. English, French, Belgian and American copper is so dominant that only 29 per cent. of the oil production is controlled by Rumanian companies. So far as certain grains go, the Balkans have never been of the importance generally supposed. In 1937-38 a total of only 1,085,000 metric tons of maize (our corn) was exported, whereas Germany imported about 2,000,000 tons, chiefly from Argentina. No maize has been shipped from the Balkans in recent years. The situation for wheat is much more favorable. Half Germany's demand for that grain is normally met by the southeast and so is half of Germany's demand for beef, mutton and pork.

Because their trade with Germany in certain products has hitherto been small, it does not follow that the Balkan states cannot play any great economic part in the war. On the contrary they are now of importance because Germany is cut off from sources of supplies overseas. It remains to be seen, however how large a part of Germany's demands they can supply.

Silent Guns

(Saturday Night)

Metaphors are dangerous things. The New Republic, concluding an article expressive of its ardent faith in American isolationism, says of the American people that "We have decided that the part of wisdom—for the world's sake—is to remain silent." — is to remain at peace. Let's stick to our silent guns!"

Canadian Coal For Canadian Use

(Sydney Post-Record)

In his advocacy at Calgary of a national fuel policy, under which Canadian coal may be assisted in reaching all parts of the Dominion Hon. R. J. Manion's integrity of

WHY HAVE SORE FEET? JUST RUB IN MINARD'S LINIMENT

The Health League Of Canada

QUACKERY THRIVES UNDER NAZISM

BIRTH RATE IN GERMANY

Propose cannot be doubted. He was a key Minister of the Government that went much further than any of its predecessors in the way of tariff protection to Canadian coal and of assisting financially in the marketing of the output of Canadian collieries.

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