THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1941.

Rural Electrification

A striking example of the "mountain laboring and bringing forth a mouse" is to be found in Premier Campbell's Budget announcement as to his Government's policy of rural electrification. This statement naturally excited great interest. It was in the following words, as reported in the Liberal organ:

> "In connection with transportation I am pleased to be able to say that the Government is studying a scheme and proposal which we hope in the near future may provide a means for the rural electrification of the whole of this Province. I think it is difficult to exaggerate the very great benefits and conveniences which would come to the people, especially to the farmers and village inhabitants of this Province, by the adoption and development of such a scheme."

A question placed on the Order Paper by the Opposition, however, produced a somewhat disillusioning reply. It appears that on March 21—just a few days before the Premier's announcement—the chairman of the Nova Scotia Power Commission had written to Premier Campbell, informing him that the Commission had in mind the building at Stellarton of a coal burning plant to produce electricity "as cheap or cheaper than anything in the Maritime Provinces today." If completed, the plant would have a surplus of power, which might be utilized in this Province. He offered to have the Commission's engineering department make a survey of the situation. There was, apparently, plenty of time, as "it would probably take us the best part of a year to get the necessary plant and equipment installed." The Commission's proposal would be to run a cable across from Pictou to a point near the new steamer terminus at Wood Islands.

Premier Campbell replied ten days later, acknowledging the Commission chairman's letter, and stating: "I am sure that consumers in this Province would be greatly interested in your proposal to supply current by means of a trans-Northumberland cable. I shall therefore be very glad to have our officials look into the matter and get in touch with your engineering department."

That is all; "there isn't any more," as somebody said in "Alice in Wonderland." The Campbell Government's policy to which the Premier referred in his speech seems to have been confined to a polite acceptance of this offer of the Nova Scotia Power Commission to send its engineers here to look over the situation.

Cheaper electrical power would certainly be welcomed in our rural communities. The problem, however, as Mr. H. F. McPhee pointed out in the Budget debate, is to keep our farmers out of bankruptcy at the present time. Even at a moderate estimate, the cost of installation for ordinary electric light purposes would probably be in the vicinity of $150, with extra costs for additional power facilities. How many of our farmers could afford to take advantage of this offer?

In the meantime, the prospect is in abeyance and everyone will hope that it will materialize on a scale commensurate with our farmers' incomes. The Premier would have been better advised had he frankly stated the situation, instead of holding out hopes of a definite policy which his Government was initiating and developing in the matter.

Liberal Wartime "Economy"

These questions and answers came out in the House of Commons recently:

How much money was spent on the new Canadian National Railways station in Montreal during 1939?

Answer: $2,174,590.82.

How much was spent on the same in 1940?

Answer: $3,599,075.82.

What is the estimated amount of expenditure on the same for 1941?

Answer: $4,100,000.00.

The diversion of these millions of dollars of steel and manpower into this passenger station project in Montreal, comments the *Financial Post*, shows callous neglect of the promises and undertakings given to the people of Canada by their Government.

On Nov. 12 last, the Prime Minister said:

> "The only limits the Government is prepared to place upon Canada's war effort are those imposed by the extent of our resources, both human and material, and by our capacity for sacrifice."

On Nov. 21, the Minister of Finance said:

> "I think it is highly essential that all of us should economize all we can and not spend our incomes on things which compete for labor and materials with war production."

"Are the people of Canada to take it that sacrifice is to be demanded only of civilians," says the *Post*; "that pet projects of politicians and government-owned enterprises are exempt from the rule of deferring new work until after the war?

"Last week the Minister of Finance warned the boards of directors which permit higher costs because the Government, through loss of tax revenue, pays most of the burden anyway would be regarded as 'guilty of serious misconduct.'

"What about a goverenment that permits higher costs in wartime for non-war enterprises? Is it too not guilty of 'serious misconduct'?"

So much for the *Financial Post* comment. There is a local moral to be drawn. Our Charlottetown railway wharf improvement, which would have helped materially in Canada's war effort, (this being the leading agricultural Province in the Maritimes) was held up on the specific excuse of wartime economy. The money, was already voted and partially spent. Had our local and federal representatives been worth their salt, they could have convinced the federal authorities that water transportation to the capital of this Province was an essential war requirement. Nobody—not even a Montreal politician—could offer such a plea for the Montreal terminal project. Yet the Montreal project was continued, at the cost of many millions of dollars, and the Charlottetown project—because of our comatose representatives,—was suspended.

Why the Liberals of this Province—the Liberals of Charlottetown in particular whose campaign funds are of so much importance in winning Liberal victories—stand for such treatment is a mystery. They are eloquent enough in expressing themselves privately. Yet they appear to be incapable of getting together and making their voices heard. No doubt the Governments, here and at Ottawa, are aware of this fact. They hold the whip hand in the shape of party patronage, and our Liberal leading citizens, however indignant they may be, jump meekly through the hoop. The Conservatives can do little except protest as they have been doing all along. Maybe somebody on the Liberal side will have the intestinal stamina to do something about it. But we have our doubts!

EDITORIAL NOTES

Easter Holiday.

* * * *

Princess Beatrice born this date, 1857, married H. R. H. Prince Henry of Battenberg, 1885; mother of ex-Queen Victoria Eugena, of Spain, the Marquess of Carisbrooke, and Lord Mountbatten.

* * * *

Prospects for fishing not very promising are they? Will the new tax be a discouragement? Here is where national registration should have good effect in checking upon alleged contraveners of the new law.

* * * *

The prospects of landing a Government Contract for Bruce Stewart & Co., Ltd., do not appear to be very bright. Should ship-building be again developed in the Maritimes there would be some chance of this good old firm landing some engineering jobs, but that, apparently, is all.

* * * *

The British Government has sent a special Commission to Washington to arrange for and supply food for Britain during the present battle of the Atlantic. The personnel includes one Canadian, viz., Mr. J. P. McLean, president of Canada Packers Ltd.

* * * *

For the second time in less than a month, Canada has received from the British Food Ministry a "fair-sized order" for eggs, an Ottawa despatch announces. Officials said the new order was larger than the one received in March, but that the price was slightly lower. Neither the exact size of the order nor the price was disclosed. The new order will be allocated among Canadian exporters in proportion to their egg shipments last year and to date in 1941.

* * * *

The Prince Edward Island-Moncton service carried on for many years by Canadian Airways will be taken over today and Lockheed Electra planes will be used. They will carry ten passengers and a crew of two, the planes being similar to those now being used by Northeast Airlines on the Moncton-Boston daily flights. Two return trips to Prince Edward Island will be made daily. Although Trans-Canada Air Lines will take over the Moncton-Halifax run of Canadian Airways they will not conduct a service to Saint John from Halifax as did the retiring company.

* * * *

"The full sum and size of Yugoslavia's bet on Britain, (says New York Times), begins to be appreciated only as the Nazi war machine tramples over her territory. What is happening now is what the Belgrade Government faced as it took its fateful decision. Equally it must have faced the terrible punishment that would be meted out to the country in the event of a German victory. As an act of faith in the final success of Britain, no event of the war, including our own policy of aid to the limit, is quite so significant as the action of this Balkan state in opening her fields to invasion and her cities to destruction. Yugoslavia has wagered her national life and the lives of her citizens on the belief that the British must win in the end."

* * * *

The First Lord of the British Admiralty Hon. A. V. Alexander, made a revolutionary announcement in the House of Commons the other day. It was that entry to the Royal Navy through the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth was to be thrown open to the poor man's son who showed himself to be of superior intellectual and physical ability. Announcing that scholarships are to be offered to candidates from grant-aided secondary schools and other boys of exceptional ability, Mr. Alexander, said that it was hoped that Dartmouth would secure its share of the pick of the nation's youth as wide as possible. It is estimated that the parent of the cadet has to pay a toal of $4,200 up to the time at which he becomes a midshipman. Under the scholarship scheme boys coming from the least affluent homes will be relieved of all expenses arising out of their training.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The Committee of Lloyd's have decided, with the approval of the Admiralty and the Ministry of Shipping, to strike a new medal to be bestowed by Lloyd's upon officers and men of the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleet in cases of exceptional gallantry at sea in time of war. This medal will be known as "Lloyd's War Medal for Bravery at Sea,' and the Committee of Lloyds believe that it will be as much prized by the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleet as are the existing Lloyd's medals. — Port of London Monthly.

Nothing more than friendliness is necessarily implied in the visit of one squadron of United States warships to New Zealand and of another squadron to Australia. Both countries have been visited by naval units of the republic in years past, when the Pacific area was untroubled by international disturbances. They are hospitable countries and what more natural than that cruisers and destroyers of a friendly power should make courtesy calls when they happen to be in that part of the great ocean? Reports show that the traditional hospitality was well maintained and visitors and hosts alike enjoyed the occasion. As to why the warships happened to be in those waters—no information has been given out and any outside parties who may be interested in the point are left to the unfettered exercise of thir imaginations. That two considerable squadrons made simultaneous calls at ports in Dominion sixteen hundred miles apart would seem to indicate that a considerable part of the United States fleet in the Pacific is now somewhere thereabouts, for reasons which curious observers will also have to ask themselves And should the fleet, or any part of it, see fit to pay a call at Singapore, steps will of course be taken to see that the ships get safely through the mine-fields and the crews are given a reception suitable to the event. Which again, interested onlookers would be entitled to explain in any way that suited their fancy — or their apprehensions. — Edmonton Bulletin.

There are at least half a dozen substitutes for the onion. Of these leeks are, of course, best known, and have been celebrated as a vegetable for centuries. For flavoring, chives have all the taste but none of the after-whiff that has surrounded the onion, in England, with what was once called a certain Cranfordian atmosphere, and its mauve heads of flowers are as charming as sea-pink. Cibbals, once a cottage favorite, is a kind of evergreen chives and therefore useful for winter. No on needs an introduction to shallots, which it is now time to plant; but the tree-onion, which grows small bulbs on both stem and root, is a little-known variety. Nor is the so-called Welsh onion well known. Introduced into England in the early seventeenth century, it is a native of Siberia — a kind of perennial leek, with tubular leaves, the small side-leeks being packed as required, while the main plant is left to grow on. There is also a Japanese form, Nebuka, said to be excellent. —London Spectator.

This war will never drive all the people mad so long as there are hobbies. All over Canada these weatherbound evenings the cellar lights are burning as amateur carpenters ply their brain-resting trade. Some of them make articles that can be taken upstairs and shown round for a short time. And there are cases on record of wives having accepted pieces of hobby-built furniture for permanent inclusion among the professional products in the living room. But hobby work is essentially subjective. It is occupational therapy. The man who smooths wood is smoothing his mind after the ruffings of the day's work. It does not matter how dreadful the creation may be so long as the creator be satisfied. We still have enough wood in Canada to afford this harmless destruction. There is only one small addition that should be made to the Criminal Code as affecting amateur carpenters. They should be forbidden one pain of penal servitude to force their guests into going down cellar to inspect their puerile monstrosities. — Innisfail Province

Mussolini no longer addresses "enormous crowds" in the Piazza Venezia, but cowers in the safer privacy of the microphone. It is Italy which is now reportedly under occupation by foreign troops, while Haile Selassie is Emperor again in Ethiopia —the first of the many heads of government to be driven into exile, and now the first to tread his own soil once more. Is it prophetic? After Ethiopia one remembers, there was Spain. The reputations made in the massacres of the Ethiopians have crumpled and their possessors have been tossed out; they are being succeeded by the reputation made in the slaughters in Spain. How long will they stand? History, now running strangely in reverse across the face of Ethiopia is revoking the "irrevocable" with a thoroughness which even the bluster of dictators cannot stay. — New York Herald Tribune.

The Japanese emissary wants to appraise for himself the Nazi chances of victory, to weigh on the ground the real strength and endurance behind the facade of flags and bayonets erected in his honor. It is not at all improbable that the interviews with Stalin constitute the prime purpose of his journey. A settlement with Russia would free Japan for her advance to the south. At the same time it would free Russia for more vigorous action in Europe, and this would not serve Hitler's interests except in the highly unlikely contingency that he could draw Stalin, too, into the new order which the Berlin-Tokyo Axis seeks to impose on Europe and Asia. This might be thinkable if the tripartite pact represented a real alliance, or if all the partners were not so busily engaged in pulling against one another. As it is, all we can be sure of is that Moscow will follow the same policy toward Berlin and Tokyo as she follows toward Ankara, London and Washington; she will ease the way for any power to fight so long as the tide of battle is thereby turned away from the frontiers of the Soviet Union. — New York Times.

The great bulk of criticism of the government in Canada is not so much anti-government as anti-everything that may retard the country's war effort. The Manchester Guardian's description of what criticism is in Britain applies with equal force to the great bulk of criticism in Canada. It said, on January 21: In the critical temper of the country there is no hostility toward the government. But in war, the ordinary canons of extenuation cease to hold: we cannot excuse or tolerate the second best. What the people and press of Canada want with all their hearts is the best: the best leadership, the best administrators, the best generals, the best executives, the best possible equipment of the best type and the best organization for its production at high speed. They, like their fellows in Britain, cannot excuse or tolerate the second best. — Edmonton Journal.

PADRE SCOTT
Poet and Patriot

(Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph)

This (April 7) is the eightieth birthday of Archdeacon Frederick George Scott though to look at and talk to him he might easily pass for a much younger man. Full of years and honors as he is, it would be interesting to know the secret of such vigorous longevity; at bottom it is almost certainly an intangible quality of spirit but on the surface we may safely attribute it to plain living, high thinking and a passionate interest in the human scene.

Quebec's beloved Canon—the more recent title of Archdeacon has never become so intimately associated with his personality—has been from youth a poet and a crusader; serene in the faith of a child and fortified by a philosophic sense of humor, where there have been wrongs to redress he has never counted the cost nor quailed in the face of any odds.

And if his uncompromising idealism has had its disappointments, his zest for the fight is as keen as ever, his confidence in ultimate victory remains unshaken.

Through the last world war he campaigned as front line Chaplain with a disregard of fatigue and personal danger all the more remarkable when we consider that he was already in his fifty-fourth year at the outbreak or hostilities.

The present conflict found Padre Scott far past the traditional life span of three score years and ten; less active, moreover, because of the honorable disability he carries with him as a souvenir of active war service; but it found him nonetheless eager to serve his "boys" once more. We can guess at the petitions with which Ottawa was bombarded and he makes no secret of his humorous impatience with the Powers-that-be for rejecting them. A soldier's life is the salt of existence to him and a soldier's death, if that should be, one bravely accepted. Unfortunately but inevitably, however, length of years is crowned with penalties as well as with rewards and retirement from action is in the former category.

You can hold a man back but if he is a good man you cannot hold him down, and this fine poet-patriot and patriarch is emphatically a good man. Accordingly, he determined that if he could not serve his God and his country with the sword, he would do so with the pen. Dedicating his creative talent to the cause of free Democracy, he set himself to inspire his countrymen with prolific verse. During the past eighteen months or so the result has been the production of some of his most telling compositions, including even doggerel, barbed and unabashed.

Such is the hero of this anniversary, happily surrounded by an extensive family circle and a well-nigh world-wide circle of admiring friends. Quebec joins with all Canada and the British Commonwealth in congratulations, coupled with the old, old wish the he may be spared to enjoy "many happy returns of the day!"

The Poets' Corner

"HE IS RISEN"

Lily bells softly their censers are swinging
In the soft breeze of an April day
Silvery chimes from the turrets are ringing,
The stone from the Tomb has been rolled away.

For Christ the Son of the God Eternal
Comes forth from the grave a conquering King,
On his sacred Brow glows a light supernal
Let glad alleluias to Heaven ring.

The azure air of an Easter morning
Is incense laden, and blossoms sweet
Are, with the magic of Spring adorning
The House of God, where His children meet.

To raise their hearts in a song of gladness,
And with joy their risen Lord to greet;
Finding surcease from all pain and sadness,
In sweet content—at the Master's Feet.

Look up, sad heart, when the sun is weaving
A cloth of gold for the slumbering earth;
Cast off this day thy robe of grieving.
Sing out, rejoice in thy soul's rebirth.

—Regina Murray

Easter, 1941.

A new Scotch broth is being served at Buckingham Palace. The Queen was so impressed with the broth during a visit to Glasgow she asked for the recipe.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

LOW FLYING

Sir:— With a view to eliminating as far as possible, the menace of low flying and the danger to life and property which it involves, a communication has been received from the Air Force authorities requesting that all residents throughout Price Edward Island report immediately any instance of low flying which may come to their notice, by telephoning collect, to the Commanding Officer (or his representative) at No. 9 Service Flying Training School, Summerside, or alternatively to the Commanding Officer at No. 31 General Reconnaissance School, Charlottetown.

When telephoning such information, every effort should be made to provide as many of the following details as it is possible to obtain:—

(a) Identification numbers on the Aircraft, (usually four numbers, such as, for instance, 3037), and the time at which the Aircraft was observed to be flying low.

(b) Whether the Aircraft was a "single" engine type, or "twin" engine, also whether "Monoplane" or "Biplane."

(c) Approximate height at which the Aircraft was seen to be flying.

(d) Locality.

Thanking you in anticipation of your kind co-operation in this matter.

I am, Sir, etc.,
E. G. FULLERTON
Wing Commander, Commanding Officer, No. 9 Service Flying Training School, Summerside, P. E. I.

"WHERE CREDIT IS DUE"

Sir,—It will have been noted that during the session of the Legislature just concluded, the Government, following the request and advice of a number of organizations, did budget for the treatment and care of Tuberculosis patients outside the Sanatorium.

It can be stated to the credit of all members of the Legislature, both Government supporters and the leader and members of the Opposition, that this action was unanimously agreed to. And even though the amount provided may not be adequate, it is at least an acknowledgement by the legislators that the government is the responsible and logical party to provide for those suffering citizens.

Credit must also be extended to the press for free publication of letters, etc., concerning this matter.

But this gratifying situation has not been accomplished without effort, and I am sure that the public would like to know who the leaders were that interested themselves sufficiently to take this matter up with the organizations. Their unselfish efforts are naturally overshadowed by the action of the organizations, Legislature, etc., but it is well to remember that if it were not for this small number of pioneers, the organizations would not have realized the need and taken this action. Therefore the credit for this action and the gratitude of all should be extended to: Hon. W. F. Allen Stewart, Strathgartney, who, during the 1940 session of the Legislature, vainly urged upon the Government party the need for this action at that time; also to Rev. E. R. Woodside, Cornwall, Rev. Father G. C. Monaghan, Charlottetown; Dr. P. A. Creelman, Charlottetown; Messrs. J. Heber MacPhail, New Haven, Gordon MacMillan, Cornwall, Walter R. Shaw, St. Catherines, Mrs. Allison MacMillan, Fairview, and Mrs. Hazen Howard, Cornwall.

Now, it is only right and just that all should praise these parties for what they have done, because they have given up a great deal of their time and travelled considerably in order to accomplish this worthy action.

And regrettable it is that unknown numbers who will be prevented from—or relieved of suffering and sorrow, will not realize that the credit is largely due to this comparatively small number of true Christians.

The reason for this will be that their noble action will not be recorded in bronze or granite. But there shall surely be a more enduring record, because our Lord will recognize it and, when referring to similar actions He has promised that such shall inherit the Kingdom prepared for them.

May the fulfillment of His promise be their reward.

I am, sir, etc.,
HUMANITARIAN.

War—25 Years Ago Today

(By The Canadian Press)

APRIL 14, 1916— British naval aircraft bombarded Constantinople and Adrianople. British artillery pounded German positions near Souchez on the Western Front. Seven new German divisions brought up for attacks on Verdun.

LONDON SPECULATION

LONDON — (CP) — Gambling on an early end of the war, property speculators are buying up 75 per cent raid-emptied flats at knock-down prices hoping to resell profitably after the war.

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