# THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 1940.


## Educational Problems

There is much food for thought in the address on Education delivered by Prof. F. Clyde Auld at Monday's meeting of the Rotary Club, and published in yesterday's Guardian. The salient point brought out, namely, that education should be the concern of the state, and that decentralization of our educational systems has been productive of many evils, is pretty generally conceded. Each Province is, for all practical purposes, a law unto itself in educational matters, and the result is a condition of chaos. In Prof. Auld's opinion the British North America Act should be changed to the extent of giving the Dominion a measure of control in those fields of learning that concern most deeply the basic concepts of our nationhood. As a more immediate remedy, he suggests that the Provinces be invited to co-operate with the Dominion by including in every school curriculum the study of civics and citizenship based upon a series of Dominion pamphlets and text books, to be supplied by the Dominion to every school district, free of charge, or, at least, at a very nominal figure. This, of course, would leave unsolved many problems arising out of decentralization, but it would fill a need which the war has accentuated, and which is now seen to be vitally important to our continuance after the war as a democracy.

Prof. Auld is frankly critical of our educational shortcomings in this Province, particularly with regard to inadequate salaries paid to teachers. This has been a grievance of long standing. It is noted in the report of the Sirois Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations that expenditures on education in this Province are some 40 per cent below the national average per capita. Partly this is due to lower costs of living, but chiefly to the fact that provincial revenues are quite inadequate to meet this demand. The Commission accordingly recommended, in its general scheme of Federal-provincial financial readjustment, a grant which would permit an annual increase of $200,000 to $250,000 in our expenditures on education and public services in order to achieve "substantial real equality with other Canadian provinces." Even with this amount at our disposal, our dollar expenditure per capita would still be lower than the statistical average for Canada, but the Commission took account of various factors which tend to make these services relatively less costly in Prince Edward Island, where lower earnings prevail in alternative occupations, and where the proportion of rural to urban population is relatively high.

One argument presented to the Commission at its sittings held in Charlottetown, and to which no reference is made in the report, may here be noted. That is the fact that the amount paid for education by this Province, in comparison with total provincial revenues, is higher than that paid by any other Province in Canada. This would indicate that any worthwhile improvement would require to be financed either by additional taxation or by increased federal subsidy, or both.

The Sirois Commission report, which holds out what seems to be the only hope of bettering our position educationally, has apparently been shelved by the Dominion Government for the duration of the war. It received little or no attention at the last session of Parliament, other matters being deemed of greater urgency. Nevertheless, its recommendations will some day have to be dealt with, and in the meantime there are inequalities which can be adjusted by local initiative. Prof. Auld throws out one challenging suggestion in this connection, when he emphasizes the value of the Women's Institutes and the desirability of having members of this organization represented on every school board.

## Too Much Caution

Too much caution in Canada's censorship of the news is not helping the war any, thinks the Ottawa Journal, commenting editorially on the launching of four Canadian war vessels at "An Eastern Canadian Port" recently. Were more details given of this important event, and of many other similar occurrences, the Journal suggests, Hitler might have been given some idea of the part Canada is playing in the prosecution of the war, and better still, more publicity would serve to hearten the people at home. After commenting on the launching of the four Canadian ships, the Journal continues:

"We submit that there is no good reason why Canada should not have been treated to a full description of these ships (if they amount to anything), told in as picturesque a way as possible.

"This couldn't do anybody any harm —except the Germans—while it would be heartening to Canada and the rest of the Empire.

"A war of defence alone is a silly thing if there can be a war of offence.

"Whenever we in this country turn out anything worth while in the way of armament, we ought to promulgate full information about it. The Germans can't reach us to their own advantage, no at present anyway; and if we are doing anything to lick the Germans, we ought to let both the Germans and the rest of the Empire know as much as we can about it. It will encourage our own crowd, and if it has any effect upon the Germans, it will be to discourage them.

"Don't let us be foolish with our censorship. Publicity may be a mighty good thing to help our own morale. Nobody has understood this principle better or practised it more than Herr Hitler, and in this respect we should take a leaf out of his book."

## — EDITORIAL NOTES —

Have you yet registered?

* * * *

Princess Margaret Rose born this date, 1930.

* * * *

With a permanent staff of 800 at the new Air Ways and 100 students there should be some intensive training of pilots.

* * * *

The tourists have had a wonderful two months since the middle of June, and many would like to prolong there stay in our midst.

* * * *

University students are not to escape military training, but are to be drilled along with their studies. If that were not so two-thirds of our universities would have to close down.

* * * *

Mr. Thomas Hall, a mariner, told the London court in an admiralty case how his electric torch (flashlight) went down with him when his ship was torpedoed, lit up the bottom of the sea and was still bright when he was "blown up" to the surface.

* * * *

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Authoress, died this date, 1762. Daughter of the Earl of Kingston she married Edward Wortley Montagu and accompanied him on an embassy to Constantinople whence her famous descriptive letters were sent. She was a pioneer advocate of inoculation for smallpox: "Copiousness of words, however ranged, is always false eloquence, though it will ever impose on some sort of understandings."

* * * *

Prime Minister Churchill was having a somewhat heated discussion with some Rightest Cities who complained that Lord Swinton's committee on the operation of secret spies contained no Liberal member when Mr. Ernest Thurtle, a New York-born Laborite member for Shoreditch, attempted to come to the aid of Mr. Churchill by asking. "Has it escaped the notice of the Prime Minister that many of the members who are pressing this question are rather lukewarm about the prosecution of the war?" And that not only led to a libelous interchange but almost precipitated a fight between Mr. Thurtle and Mr. Aneurin Bevan a fiery Welshman. Finally the Speaker put an end to the discussion, but not before it was evident to the entire House that their nerves are not what they were a few weeks ago.

* * * *

It appears rent profiteers have shown their heads in certain areas where war preparations have necessitated a temporary increase of population, and the Mackenzie King Government has intimated their intention of handling the matter. Because the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, set up at the outbreak of the war, has from the beginning been policing prices on the necessaries, of life, food, fuel and clothing those in many parts of the country who feel that owners are asking too much for rental of their properties have been directing their complaints to that board. Hon Hector B. McKinnon, president, will thus probably have added to his already lengthy list of difficult tasks that of checking the rise in rentals. It is clear that the alleged profiteering in rentals has been an outcome of war activities, for in at least three instances cited there has been a considerable influx of people engaged in some form of war work.

* * * *

A development of interest to Canadian millers exporting to the United Kingdom has been the announcement in the House of Commons by the Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Food that the United Kingdom authorities intend to fortify white flour with the addition of Vitamin B1 and also to introduce into the loaf a small quantity of calcium salt. "In dealing with the relative merits of white flour and wholemeal flour under war conditions," writes Mr. Hudd, Canadian Trade Commissioner, "the Parliamentary Secretary said the Government took the view that the main objection to white flour is that it is lacking in vitamin content to be found in the wholemeal variety. Some months must elapse before sufficient Vitamin B1 is available, but when that time arrives the public will have the choice of fortified white bread or wholemeal bread at the same price. The decision to fortify white bread is described as a revolutionary step, because in conjunction with the scheme for making available cheap milk to children and other sections of the population, it would lay the foundation of a nutritional policy which should have a permanent beneficial effect on public health."

* * **

Italy knew all along that the British were to withdraw from Somaliland, and were merely opposing her advance to gain time. In a communique from Rome, dated 12th inst., the army headquarters, said: "The British are opposing and are offering stubborn resistance, with a view to delaying the advances as long as possible in order to permit the evacuation of British personnel and the withdrawal of ships' stores and ammunition as well as of foodstuffs from Berbera." Time fights for the British. Their strategy is obvious—to delay the Italian advances on Somaliland, Kenya and Khartoum, but to hold the Cairo delta and the Alexandria fleet base at all costs, to let the blockade slowly strangle Italy at home and her African armies, which are not self-sufficient but must get new supplies from Italy. It all hinges on the delta. If Britain can keep her fleet base to service her blockade warships at Alexandria, she can maintain the blockade and Suez control. If Italian air power can subjugate the delta, Italy wins a modern empire great as Rome's greatest. Those are the forces behind the current struggle for mastery of the eastern Mediterranean.

## NOTES BY THE WAY

**The demands of war have made** it necessary to appoint separate ministers of army, air and naval forces. The new naval minister, Angus Macdonald, should bring strength to the government. A comparatively young man, he has done well as premier of Nova Scotia. He should bring to the cabinet some of the vision of the seafaring population. With another Nova Scotian, Col. J. L. Ralston, as minister of national defense, and Major C. G. Power, as air minister, the three ministers of the fighting forces should make an active working team. — Ottawa Citizen.

**We shall never surrender.** We shall never cease to fight. Brave words which we must swiftly, with all our hearts, with all our minds, with all our souls translate into brave deeds. Examine yourselves. What can you do, what can you give to save yourselves, your dear ones your neighbors, and all right thinking peoples from slavery and chaos? What can you do, what can you give to save them for democracy, decency, justice and liberty? A thousand pounds A penny? A prayer? It matters not. So long as each of us does all and gives all that he can, the weight of it will overwhelm the tyrants and replace might by right. — Royal Gazette, Bermuda.

**It should be made a criminal of**fense for any employer to refuse to take back upon his payroll any man who has been called up for military service. Not many employers would be guilty of such an unpatriotic act, but there are some who might allow absence from their staff to prejudically affect men who had been called up for training. The Criminal Code already deals with employers who refuse to take back union men after a strike. No new principle is involved in extending the code to protect men who have been temporarily conscripted. — Toronto Telegram.

**The new Canadian navy emerg**ing out of the Canadian shipwards in the form of patrol and escort vessels and sub-chasers is to bring into use an old name. These specially designed craft are to be known as "corvettes." In the old days of wooden ships the corvette in the British Navy was a flush-decked vessel with one tier of guns and rigged like a frigate. The line of descent is sufficiently direct for the old name to fit the new steel ship well enough. The derivation of "corvette," however, goes beyond its French appearance to the earlier Latin "corbita" which is described as a slow-sailing ship and this in turn stems from "corbis" — a basket. — Ottawa Citizen.

**The necessity for facing the war** facts as they are, and not as wishful thinking would have them be, is startlingly driven home if we look back at what many of our accepted authorities on the subject had to say six months to a year ago. In Harper's Magazine, just before the war started a well-known writer had an article headed, "Germany Would Lose." He went on to tell of the weakness of planes and tanks in the war in Spain; of Germany's ill-preparedness in the matter of raw materials and oil; of how psychologically Germany is more like 1917 than 1914 and how "the iron mines that carried Germany through the last war lie behind the Maginot line in France today." His final paragraph says, "To wage war successfully is the one thing Hitler can't do." At the same time, in the American Magazine, one of our top-ranking statesmen, one who has had more experience with foreign affairs than any other American, wrote, "We are told that if the democracies fall we shall be the next victim. My sympathies are with the democracies. But I do not agree they will fall; they comprise great empires of hundreds of millions of people, with all the resources needed to secure their defence. But if they do fall, the exhaustion of the dictators will be such that these countries will leave us alone for a quarter of a century. Another well-known writer who was a member of our general staff in 1918 wrote last December along the same lines. He scoffed at the idea that Hitler could ever invade America. "Even if he wins, his nation is going to be too exhausted to pick a fight with the mightiest power on earth. All we have to do is sit tight. The dictator countries are not at all exhausted by the war. They have not lost, in nearly a year of war, as many men as they lost in single battles in the first World war. We should all like to go along undisturbed in any way by the events abroad. But, in view of what has happened, we can't take any chances. — Boston Post.

**There is another very good** reason for an early session of the Alberta Legislature. A bill has been introduced in the Canadian Parliament for the incorporation of an Alberta provincial bank with some unusual powers. The application comes from the Government of Alberta, which received the approval not of the present Legislature but of a previous Legislature with very different membership. The motion was put through the Legislature with little information and with practically no debate. Federal Members of Parliament would be justified in asking if this bill with the extraordinary powers, has the approval of the elected members of the Alberta Legislature. It has not. —Calgary Albertan.

**Old General Smedley D.** (Duckboard) Butler, whose death was briefly chronicled in the public prints, lived to hear his personal opinion of Mussolini justified. Back in 1931 this "Fighting Quaker" called Il Duce a "hit-and-run driver." Boy, was there a stink! The U. S. State Department officially apologized to Italy and Butler was ordered court-martialed. His last days on his sickbed must have been considerably alleviated when President Roosevelt, himself, went to the mike and told Benito he was stabbing his neighbor, France, in the back. As they bury the doughty warrior with full military honors at Philadelphia, there'll indubitably be a grim grin on his battle-scarred face. — Harrison in Windsor Star.

**This seems a suitable moment** to recall — though I think I must have mentioned it here some time or other — a statement which General von Blomberg, the former German War Minister, made to a friend of mine a few years ago. "One thing," he said, "is certain.

## No Way To Treat Dollars

(Timmins Advance)

A number of newspapers and magazines have been printing such expressions as "$5 million," "$160 million," and so on. This was patiently borne by people who have a respect for dollars and for the decencies of language, but when financial journals like the Northern Miner adopt the plan it is time to call a halt. There is grave danger that if this abortion is encouraged the Wine and Beer Journal will be coming along with a reference to "Qts. 160 million of beer" being consumed in a certain time by a certain section of the population. That would naturally lead to similarly confusing expressions as to the quantities of "goof" consumed by others. And that would be too much.

The excuse for the use of expressions like "$123 millions" is the desire to clarify, to make it plain, so that the wayfaring man though a fool may not err therein. In the present state of the stock market it may be that a broker would not be able to realize just what $123,000,000 meant. But if "$123 million" is any clearer, then there must be something wrong with the stock market or the stock brokers, or something. But if writing "one hundred and twenty-three million dollars" as "$123 million" is going to right the stock market, it certainly will confuse the ordinary man plenty. Maybe that is what is wrong with the stock market.

Every once in a while gentle geniuses arise to fix things by some innovation —usually dug up from the musty past. But throwing around dollar marks and juggling with millions of dollars is another matter. Dollars and money of all other kinds should be treated with the utmost respect and circumspection these days.

## British Subject

(Halifax Chronicle)

Talk of the national registration has raised some questions as to who is a British subject. Most people, of course, born in this country or Great Britain, have no doubts about their own status, but there are some who are less certain of the technicalities. The instructions issued to deputy registrars define a British subject as one who:

a. was born in any of the dominions or on a British ship, regardless of the nationality of his parents.

b. was born elsewhere of a father who, at the time of the child's birth, was a British subject.

c. has been naturalized in Canada or another dominion.

d. has had his name included in a parent's naturalization certificate.

e. is the child of a person naturalized in Canada before January 1, 1918, otherwise than under the Imperial Naturalization Act, and was a minor and resident in Canada at the time of the naturalization, of the parents and, in any case, not later than January 1, 1915.

f. is the wife of a man who, at the date of the marriage, was a British subject.

g. is the wife of a man who became a British subject, after the marriage but before January 15, 1932.

h. is a married woman who received a certificate of nationality on her own declaration.

That is the general set of definitions, although there are other circumstances which deprive such people of their British nationality.

Related to the topic, is a letter recently received, asking if His Majesty assented to bills in Canada's Parliament, in 1939, as King of Canada? The writer points out that Canada declared war on her own account. He asks, further, if a native born Canadian is a British subject or a Canadian subject of King George VI?

Bound records of bills passed by His Majesty while in Ottawa show that he gave his assent as King of Canada. Canada, of course, declared war on her own account, after Great Britain. She had the option, technically, of refusing. The Irish Free State exercised such an option, by not declaring war on the Third Reich.

Local experts agee that a native born Canadian, in the narrow sense, is a Canadian subject of King George VI, since anyone born in Canada is subject to His Majesty as King of Canada. But a native-born Canadian, in the wider sense, as defined above, is also a British subject.

Whoever has Italy for an ally in the next war is going to lose it." It may have been a slander, but its authorship gives it patience.—London Spectator.

**Acceptance by Hon. Angus Mac**donald of a post in the federal Cabinet and the elevation of Hon. A. S. MacMillan to the premiership of Nova Scotia naturally raises the question whether the new premier will call provincial elections for the early fall. This question is not mere speculation from the fact that there are now five vacancies in the provincial representation with two of them in the city of Halifax. — Amherst News.

## 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.**

### CLOVER SEED

Sir,—In travelling through the country, I notice some nice plots of clover that are being saved for seed. This is a move in the right direction as clover seed for the past number of years has been very high in price.

As I do not know of any hullers in the provice for the proper threshing of clover seed, you will have to grind it in a threshing mill. First, you must thresh the hay. You have then the seed in the hull. If it is a sike clover, you have the seed in the hull, and in addition to that the seed is in a small pod containing two to four seeds, which is enclosed in the hull. Many of our farmers call this pouse, and for the purpose of this letter I will continue to call it.

Before grinding your clover seed, you must put it through a fan mill in order to take the small weed seeds out, for if you grind the pouse with weed seeds in it, it is impossible to separate the weed seed from the clover seed. When this is done, if your thresher is one with the head separate from the cleaner, put the cleaner to one side, and nail some boards on the head of the thresher closing it all up except an inch or an inch and a quarter at the bottom, then put the pouse in and start to grind. Be sure to keep the thresher full. You will find the seed ground has a tendency to work to the bottom and come out through this space. It will be necessary for you to keep cleaning up the clover seed, putting the pouse back through the thresher and grinding it until you get all the seed removed.

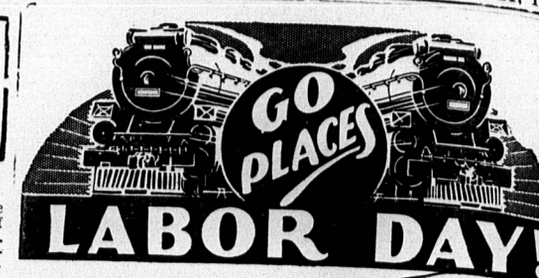
If you have a good alsike hay you will find that on a cold frosty day if you spread a quantity of this hay on the barn floor and take forks and shake the hay, you will get a portion of seed shook off the hay that will equal in value up to eighteen dollars ($18.00) per ton, providing the clover is ripe. Do not try this experiment on a warm day when the frost is coming out of the hay.

Do everything possible to obtain as much seed as you can on your farm. Besides having it for your own use, you will find it a source of revenue well worth while. In the early season we have the clover midge with which to contend, which lay eggs in the blossom and the seed is destroyed by a small worm.

In Ontario and Quebec clover is grown in many cases as the principle product of the farm, and mowed two or three times during the season. This has different beneficial effects. First it increases the number of blossoms on the clover plant and more seed later on. It also holds the clover back from ripening until after the time when the clover midge is prevalent. This is why as a rule, the second crop of clover is usually better filled than the first crop.

I am, Sir, etc.,

W. H. DENNIS.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