

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1939.

National Interests First

With the approval of the federal Conservative leader, Hon. Dr. Manion, the Prince County Conservative Associations have decided not to offer opposition to the return of Hon. Colonel Ralston, the Liberal candidate, in the by-election scheduled for Jan. 8.

This decision was taken in view of the fact that Canada is at war, and that, as Finance Minister in the Dominion Government, Colonel Ralston's election at the present time is important to the Government's effective prosecution of the war.

Colonel Ralston has expressed his deep appreciation of this action, which we believe will be endorsed by the electors generally. It is in line with the assurance given by Dr. Manion at the last session of Parliament, when he pledged the fullest co-operation of the Conservative Party in the Government's war activities.

Now that this point has been settled, it is hoped that every effort will be concentrated at Ottawa towards achieving the maximum efficiency in war production. There should be no further cause for complaint or suspicion with regard to partisan discrimination. The Government can retain public confidence in its war efforts only by exercising the most rigid supervision in every department, and by absolutely refusing to consider partisan interests in expending the taxpayers' money. The example set by the Conservatives of Prince County, in placing national interests before political expediency, is one which should inspire not only Colonel Ralston, but all his colleagues in the King Government, to greater effort in this direction.

Air Training Centres

Reference has been made in these columns to the importance of the Federal Government plan of establishing air training centres throughout the Dominion, and the possibility of having such training given here. Unfortunately there has been delay in completing the new Charlottetown airport, but assurance has been given that this will be done next Spring. In the meantime, surveys have been made all over Canada with a view to establishing air training centres. There is no reason why Charlottetown should be ignored in this respect.

The question was raised at Monday's meeting of the City Council. Councillor Chandler's suggestion that the civic airport be offered to the Federal Government free of charge for the duration of the war, and that it be made available for training purposes, is well worth considering. This is a matter in which the civic authorities have a right to expect fullest co-operation from the Provincial Government. The Island capital is the logical centre for air training activities in the Province. The establishment of such facilities is both necessary and desirable from the recruiting standpoint, and this fact should be strongly impressed on the officials at Ottawa.

The Death Penalty

On Nov. 8 an official of the National Defense Department issued a curt announcement which must have astonished members of the Government, of Parliament and a great many people in the country.

He said that in the Canadian army, as in the British army, the crimes of desertion, cowardice and sleeping on sentry duty are no longer punishable by death. No longer will lads in the Canadian army have to shoot a comrade who has run away or been overcome with sleep while on listening post. No longer will the gruesome routine of the firing squad, the medical officer pinning a white marker over the heart of the condemned man, the volley and the death, be inevitable under these circumstances. The death penalty, in this war, will be imposed only for murder, mutiny and treason.

But, writes Grant Dexter in the Winnipeg Free Press, the astonishing fact in the announcement of the National Defense Department was that the change had taken place about nine years ago.

There has been a strong and continuing agitation for this reform ever since the last war. Successive governments have been asked to change the Canadian Militia Act and abolish the death penalty for these offences. But no government would agree to do so. The governments never argued for retaining the death penalty. They always put off the decision until some future time.

Actually, Canada followed Britain's lead in these matters. Section 69 of the Canadian Militia Act provides that the Army Act of Great Britain shall apply to Canada "as if it had been enacted by the Parliament of Canada for the government of the militia."

The British Parliament enacted this reform about 1930, and the astonishing thing about it is that while the text of the amended British Army Act is readily available, neither ministers, officials nor members of Parliament seem to have read it or, if they did read it, to have realized the significance of the change.

Thus in the House of Commons as late as last May, Hon. Ian Mackenzie, then Minister of National Defence, was urged to amend the Militia Act to do away with the death penalty for cowardice (unrevised Hansard, page 4573) Mr. Mackenzie replied: "I cannot make a definite statement at the moment." Later on he

said he would be unable to do anything this year. The inference was that the act would be overhauled in 1940. But this will scarcely be necessary now that the department has discovered that the desired reforms were achieved nine years ago.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Dr. Johnson died this date, 1784 - "Turn from the glittering bribe thy scornful eye, nor sell for gold what gold could never buy."

The stormy weather, though later than last year, is earlier than we have been accustomed to for some years. Of course there is always the January thaw to which to look forward.

October imports of cheese amounted to 174,271 pounds compared with 69,483 in September and 146,442 in October, 1938. The amount imported during the 10 months ended October was 962,737 pounds compared with 1,048,828 a year ago.

Business across Canada maintained its satisfactory trend last week, according to the weekly trade report issued by the Canadian Credit Men's Trust Association. Collections ranged from "just fair" to fairly good. Maritime trade "showed further improvement" in some districts while others reported conditions "quite good."

Sir Eugene Fiset, now Member of Parliament for Rimouski, will be named Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec either just before or immediately after the coming holiday season. He succeeds Hon. E. L. Patenaude, whose term was extended last May so he could be on hand to receive Their Majesties the King and Queen and then extended again for the time of the last provincial election.

The Godbout Government has fixed February 20 as the date for the next session of the Legislature. Sources close to the Government asserted that the public at large had no conception of the amount of legislation that had to be prepared before a session could be called. The new Godbout Government has reportedly found that it wishes to repeal, alter and otherwise change so much of the legislation introduced by the former Duplessis administration that it will take some time to prepare the bills in consequence.

Canadian and American brandy, cordial, gin and cider drinkers in Bermuda, will have to dig deeper into their pockets next year as a result of action by the Assembly that increased the duties on the first three from 11 shillings a gallon and 25 per cent ad valorem to 16 shillings a gallon and 25 per cent ad valorem. The duty on cider was increased from 3 shillings to 4 shillings per dozen quarts. A number of the Assembly members thought the duty should be increased as much as 50 per cent as a revenue measure, but the Finance Committee's view was that to unduly rise the price would only limit legitimate consumption and defeat its object.

In Alberta the cattle ranchers expect to benefit by approximately \$175,000 as a result of the 1940 cattle quota on exports to the United States, stockmen estimate. The 1940 quota, recently announced at Washington, permits export of 193,950 head of heavy cattle to the United States from Canada. Kenneth Cockpock, manager of the Western Stock Growers' Association said that under the new quota Canadians can export 23,000 head more cattle to the United States than during the current year. He estimated reduction in duty under the quota at \$15 a head, saving \$345,000 for Canadian cattlemen. Under the quota cattle may be shipped to United States at a rate of 1-1-2 cents a pound duty. After the quota is filled duty is three cents a pound.

A note in The Weekly News of Rome deals with the Italian origin of the surname of the man and his son who navigated for the English on the coast of North America, Giovanni Sebastiano Caboto. Even during their lifetime their names had been Anglicized to John and Sebastian Cabot, from the latter of whom the Lodges and Danas are descended, with a family tradition that their ancestors had always been Cabots, always Englishmen. The note also is a reminder of the jest that "the Lowels speak only to Cabots and the Cabots speak only to God." The writer in the Roman paper says: "The Anglicizing by the English, of Caboto into Cabot is obviously not an indication of English nationality, since local nationalizing of names was customary in those days; witness for example the name of John Hawkwood, the English soldier of fortune who came to be known in Italy as Giovanni Aento, and that of Walter of the Mill, the English Bishop of Palermo, who built its cathedral and who became known as Gualtiero Offamilio, the name being even so inscribed on his sarcophagus, which stands in the crypt of the cathedral."

Complaint having been made that some dependents of soldiers in the Canadian Active Service Force had not been receiving their allowances it is offered as an explanation, that at the very commencement of the war a new scale of allowances was announced for the army and immediately went into effect. Under this scheme about 40,000 claims have already been dealt with. In the navy and air force a peacetime complication existed. Only a certain percentage of the forces were allowed married allowances. If an airman married he knew he had to wait his turn to come within that percentage. When these units were suddenly brought up to war strength the peacetime system of providing allowances was inadequate. November checks for allowances and assigned pay for dependents of members of the Canadian Active Service Force totalled just under \$2,000,000 and this amount will be increased when the situation is adjusted in other branches of the service. Even in the Army there are still thousands of applications to be dealt with by the 150 members of the staff of the Dependents' Allowance Board. Every application is checked.

NOTES BY THE WAY

If we can bring ourselves to trust India with what Mr. Gandhi has called the substance of independence we shall gain for the first time in our long association the willing and enthusiastic consent of the Indian people to a partnership that is nothing less than the core of the British Commonwealth. That is briefly, the opportunity that is at hand. There can be no doubt that Indians of every shade of opinion share our detestation of the force against which this country has gone to war and the ideals it has undertaken to defend. But Britain and India are placed side by side not merely in spirit. The dangers that threaten the one are also imperiling the other. Those who think they are free to choose will discover before long that we are both in the same boat. Yet the realization of the common peril may be disastrously delayed unless courageous statesmanship intervenes to create an atmosphere of mutual trust in which each side will accept the others word - Manchester Guardian.

German soldiers in Poland are reported to have destroyed the state of Woodrow Wilson at Poznan. The reason given was that the three life-size statue of Woodrow Wilson was "an artistic eyesore." Next soldiers in the role of critics of art do not seem to be well east. We fancy that the only explanation for American consumption. The statue was by Gutzon Borglum, and we would not venture to pass upon its merits. We have President Wilson's own word for it that the sculptor worked under a handicap. The American president rather fancied limericks, and in a lighter moment he once penned the following: "For beauty I am not a star: There are other more handsome by far. But my face, I don't mind it. For I am behind it - It's the folks out in front that I fear."

The Emperor Constantine, when told a mob had smashed the head of his statue with stones commented: "It is very surprising, but I don't feel hurt in the least." The Nazi despisers will not even have the satisfaction of surprising Woodrow Wilson, and the prestige of the dead American president will feel not one blow as to the reputation of the Nazi soldier being already at rock bottom, it is equally invulnerable. - Moncton Transcript.

Complete air supremacy is not to be expected, except perhaps through Germany's shortage of petrol. Air supremacy in the last resource depends upon the fighters. At present the British fighters, notably the Hawker Hurricane and the Supermarine Spitfire, are several miles an hour faster than the German Messerschmitt and Heinkel fighters respectively. The British machines have eight machine-guns apiece to a usual equipment of four each in the Germans. But new designs will come into production on both sides, and it is possible, though not probable, that the position may change. We may take comfort from the sober words of the Chief of the Air Staff, Air-Chief Marshal Sir Cyril Newall, when he gave an interview to the Press in Paris on October 7th. The C.A.S. is reported to have said: "French air circles, who are always generous in their appraisal of the deeds of their British Allies, have given it as their opinion that the R.A.F. have established a supremacy in the air on the Western Front. It is too early to say whether this is so or not. Rather one should say that the R.A.F. and their Allies are on the road to establishing such a supremacy." The Nineteenth Century and After (London.)

Germany's lightning victory over Poland has given her little cause for self congratulation. It may be that the gallant resistance to aggression offered by the Poles will have even more far reaching influences on the final issue than had even the Russian invasion of East Prussia in 1914, which ended so disastrously at Tannenberg. Then, the dispatch of divisions from the Western Front in response to a call from East Prussian Junkers for protection was one of Von Moltke's grosser errors, while the miracle of the Marne was possible. What price has Germany paid for her victory this time? Her direct losses in men and material have been considerable but, of course, not crippling—though they are probably higher than Hitler has announced. Much more important is the fact that, while the Polish campaign was in progress, France was allowed to complete her mobilization without interference and that the British Field Army, with its multitude of vehicles and its elaborate base depot organization, has been landed in France without the loss of men or equipment. These are astonishing and totally unexpected events of a purely military character, and we are wondering to what the immunity of the Allied forces and their communications was due. - The Fortnightly (London.)

Quite apart from Russian action in taking time by the forelock in the Baltic and the heavy blow which this represents to Nazi hopes of expansion in that region, Hitler's association with Stalin may cost him dear within Germany herself. The conduct of Russia is not surprising. One cannot assume that Hitler's intention "either to undermine, disintegrate and revolutionize Soviet Russia, or to link the Russian 'space' with the 'imperial space' of the German World Empire" will have been a secret to the Intelligence Service of Moscow. So Stalin may have thought it well to make hay while the sun shone, and to seize other "guarantees" than Hitler's word against any German attempt to "Nazify" Russia. On the other hand, the spectacle of Russo-German collusion and oo-

Shop - Keeping In Pioneer Days

THE STORY OF BEDEQUE'S FIRST STORE By E. S. D. From the Day - Book of William Schurman, merchant, "on the Island of St. John," begun 1784

(Continued from yesterday's Guardian)

To the early Bedeque inhabitants, products made from iron and steel were among the rare luxury goods. Many of the pioneers got along with the bare necessities in this line, like ploughs, scythes and axes for out-lying farms, and a crane for the housewife's duties. The heavy wooden ploughs of that period were made of iron mouldboards and shafts and collars. An item in 1781, "to make a plow . . . 0 8 0 (\$1.60) would evidently refer to the wooden frame. An earlier item of 1785 was just "plow 0 2 6." The square and mould board of the early models were made in one piece, or in 1800 we find "2 shear moulds (square moulds)" weighing twenty eight and half pounds each, charged up at eight pence per pound for a total of eighteen shillings, or \$3.76. Axes were not charged till 1795 when they were sold for 2. There was probably little sale for them earlier because of the government grant of tools to the Loyalists when they came to Beaufort in 1784.

"One mowing scythe" (scythe) is charged up in 1783 at five shillings and six pence; and two "sickles" in 1789 sold for twenty cents. Awi blades sold at fifteen cents a dozen in 1800. Sheep shears were fifty cents in 1786 and fifty cents twenty cents each in 1786.

Schurman appears to have done a big business in iron bars in the years 1793-94 & 95. Probably he had not stocked it before, and there was an accumulated demand which made for such items as follows: - August 8, 1793 - John Murray's son to sixty-five ton at 4 1/2 per pound 1: 4: 4" August 2, 1793 Mr. Daniel Ramon for iron bar taken by his b. 1: 2: 10 1/2"

"Malcolm Ramsey - 1800 and 1801 steel sold at six shilling and a half for a four pound piece, and a six shilling sold at thirty cents. Chains were twenty cents a pound in 1795, and nails the same year were ten pence (over sixteen cents a pound. On Jan. 6, 1796, Daniel Green, either the original pioneer at Green's shore (Summerside) or his son of the same name, was charged with forty pounds of nails - \$6.67 - which might suggest either the younger man was building a home, or the older being a wing to his house at this time.

In 1800 Schurman debited himself with "100 spikes @ 6d. 22: 0: 0." This is six pence (6c) each, it may be reasonably assumed that these were hand-made. L. U. Fowler in a valued article "Bedeque and his People" in the Prince Edward Island Magazine tells us that Schurman's house built after the fire in 1793 had only hand made nails in it. One must wonder where the locks too, hand-made. In 1800 they sold at thirty cents the dozen.

In a time when wooden latches and hinges were commonly used, the 1795-style of homemade wrought-iron hinges sold at sixty five cents a pair. An early harrow (the wonderer what type) sold for \$1. Hoops were eight cents a dozen. D.d these embrace the hard wooden curves of the wash tub or mask the more graceful ones of the gutter matron? In 1800 "5 locks for a chest" went over the counter for six shillings (\$1.20). Nine squares of glass (very seldom mentioned) cost a shilling each in 1811. (To be Continued)

The Poet's Corner

SONNET It is not to be thought of that the Of British freedom, which, to the Of the world's praise, from dark Hath flowed "with pomp of waters unwithstood." Roused though it be full often to a mood Which spurs the check of salutary bands, That this most famous Stream in bogs and ponds Should perish; and to evil and to good Be lost forever. In our halls is Armory of the invincible Knights of old: We must be free or die, who speak the tongue of the longed-for people. That Shakespeare spake; the faith and morals hold Which Milton held. In everything we are sprung Of Earth's first blood, have titles manifold. -Wordsworth.

COMBAT RHEUMATISM

Rheumatism is often caused by uric acid in the blood. This blood impurity should be extracted by the kidneys. If kidneys fail, and excess uric acid remains, it irritates the muscles and joints causing excruciating pain. Plan to help prevent rheumatism by keeping your kidneys in good condition. Take regularly Dodd's Kidney Pills - for half a century the favorite kidney remedy. 10c

Speed In The Gay Nineties

(New York Times) Even the Gay Nineties, sedate though they seem in retrospect, had their bursts of speed. In a day when the horse and buggy were still kings of the road, velocity which would not excite much comment in the world of to-day really stood out. The fastest thing on wheels in the world of 1893 was Engine No. 999. On May 10, 17th "Tie Charlie" Hogan at the throttle, it whizzed along the stretch of New York Central tracks between Batavia and Buffalo at the then incredible rate of 112.5 miles an hour.

Engineer Hogan, rich in honours, has just died; but that record run of his in No. 999 is still fixed in the country's memory. Perhaps it is because the alliterative numerals are so easy to remember. Perhaps it is because the old record stood for almost a decade, well into another century. In its day the run was a railroad epic. The train from New York to Buffalo was hopelessly late. Some say it was intended to be. But No. 999, new and shining, was waiting on a siding to pick it up. Passengers in their coaches were nervous when the telegraph poles started to clatter by like slats in a picket fence. But Hogan pulled his cap down and kept his throttle open while Fireman Ike O'Neil puffed his coal shovel. No. 999 roared into Buffalo on time to the dot and the telegraph wires flashed news of a new world's record.

Even now 112 miles an hour isn't loafing. Last year the Coronation Express, which we saw here at the fair, rocketed down from Edinburgh to London at 125 miles an hour. But most of our fastest day trains can't equal old No. 993 with Hogan in charge. To-day's speed is built into automobiles and aeroplanes. Hogan, in his retirement must have heard them talking seriously of planes at 500 miles per hour. But he was never ashamed of No. 999. It stayed on the track.

NEEDED PAINT JOB BEACONSFIELD England - (CP) - Falling to whiten the front, side and back of his car as called for in blackout regulations a motorist was fined five shillings (\$12.1).

MADE THEIR MARK LONDON - (CP) - The Probate Court accepted as a valid signature to a joint will and testament a cross made by a blind husband when his hand was guided by his wife who couldn't write.

New methods for reaching the nation's hitherto untapped oil resources are being tested in Japan.

P. Ins. Fully Says: After you've had a property loss is a might be better to find out that you were under-insured - or that there was some feature about your insurance that wasn't clearly explained to you.

"Take it from me, I refuse to run any chances. I want my insurance written by a man who is able to prescribe protection just as a doctor writes a prescription for medicine. The agent of the National Fire Insurance Company of Hartford showed me a lot of things about insurance that I'm mighty glad to know now, before any loss teaches me an expensive lesson. It's a comfort, by Jimmy to look at my home and realize that it's safe."

W. K. ROGERS AGENCIES LTD CHARLOTTETOWN

1939 City Tax Appeals

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal has set Monday, December 18th, 1939, at 10 A. M. in the City Court Room in the City Building, as the time and place for hearing appeals from City Rates and Assessments for the current year ending January 15th 1940. Dated December 5th 1939.

JAMES FULLERTON, City Clerk City of Charlottetown. L-127-12-6-101.

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