THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 1945

1945 Farm Programme

Watching the Dominion-Provincial agricultural conference at Ottawa planning a farm programme for the year 1945, a western correspondent remarked that the experts were not fearful of 1945, nor even greatly of 1946, but thereafter they seemed to be looking into a void.

The advice handed out to farmers was to reduce wheat by eight per cent, to increase oats by twelve per cent, and barley by ten per cent, and to raise all the cattle and hogs they could. Mr. George Robertson of the Saskatchewan Pool said that the farmers there would grow wheat no matter what the conference advised. He suggested giving each farmer a quota on wheat. The previous Dominion-Provincial conference asked the farmers to grow 17.5 million acres in 1944. Actually they grew 23.9 million acres.

This war increased the use of United States wheat tremendously. This increase reflected vast quantities used for feed and industrial alcohol in addition to a moderate increase in food use. But a drop in consumption cannot be far away.

The longtime outlook for meats is much better. For a small country, Great Britain produced a remarkable amount of beef. But, during the war, all the emphasis has been on milk rather than beef. Britain is producing more milk than ever before. Most of it is going to the children.

There are areas in the prairie provinces that "must grow wheat or perish," as one speaker at the 1938 Bracken conference put it. But there are other areas that could do just as well with beef and bacon if the world continues to enjoy a full employment dinner table. And, of course, the more farmers who do this, the better for the wheat growers.

Formerly the man putting up winter feed for his cattle used to pitch his hay onto a haystack with a three-tined fork. Then he pitched it up on the stack with the same tool. Now he has a sweep on the front of his tractor that gathers up the raked hay, carries it to the stack, elevates it and slides it off on the stack top.

Even the dairy farmer who spent long hours "pulling teats" is getting away from that work. One speaker at a recent conference remarked that Edmonton's city milk supply was now almost 100 per cent a milking machine job. Changes such as these will make livestock farming more popular. But perhaps the average farmer is rather sceptical when he hears political leaders promising full employment after the war. If there is merely a brief reconstruction boom after the war and then a return of the conditions of the nineteen-thirties, he may be no better off marketing beef and bacon than he is with wheat. It all depends how the world's standard of living keeps up.

Greater London Plan

Britain's famous town-planning expert, Professor Abercrombie, has just published a master plan for the reconstruction and reorganization of the whole of the greater London area, in an estimated period of ten years. This plan, prepared at the request of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, together with that prepared in 1943 for the London County Council (responsible for the inner area) deals with the area of 2,700 square miles containing in 1938 a population of 10,250,000, which is over 20 per cent of the population of the United Kingdom.

The main points of the two plans include the establishment of four clearly defined rings. There will be an inner urban ring with an average radius of nine miles, and a graduated population, with density ranging from 200 per acre (mostly in flats) in a few central residential areas, to 75 per acre on the outer fringes; also a suburban ring with a population of 50 to the acre; a "green belt", containing some outlying towns, and an outer country ring, up to a 30-mile radius, mainly farm lands (but also country towns and villages) where the farmer would be encouraged "to perform his unpaid functions as nature's landscape gardener and steward of the countryside", but capable of absorbing as much as necessary of the "overspill" from the centrl areas.

It is recommended that generally no new industries should be introduced into London's urban area. The plans contemplate the removal of over 1,000,000 persons to some 300,000 new homes, and the removal of 2,500 factories. Most people would be rehoused in the outer country area in which eight or ten completely new "satellite" towns are proposed, to accommodate 380,000 with adequate industrial sites.

In the past, industrial and housing developments have not been coordinated, the main industrial expansion having been to the west of London, while most workers live in the east and south-east. The result has been that 86 per cent of the workers living in new housing estates have had a daily journey of eight miles each day, causing inevitable overcrowding on trains and busses. Wartime evacuation of factories and businesses has shown what is possible when removal is essential and there are also pre-war examples of successful migration, for instance of the great motor works from Manchester to London with 3,000 skilled workers and families. One thing to be avoided is the further establishment of factories on good market-gardening land. To safeguard human interests, one plan suggests "a population director" as well as an officer for the location of industry.

Extensive replanning of communications would include "a spider web of ten radial express motor roads" to be linked by four main ring-roads tunnelling under the Thames in the east so as to allow the port of London "to remain one of the great ports of the world."

The plans provide for ten airports, one on each of the radial roads. One of these would be a main airport for world traffic, with runways up to three miles.

All railways in the inner urban area are to be electrified (this will be helping to eliminate the smoke evil which costs the country millions of pounds annually) and some of the present surface or elevated lines are to be put underground.

Everywhere, roads are to be diverted from the main centres of population, thus enabling these to become self-contained "communities" separated by "parkways", each ideally containing some 600,000 inhabitants with all the necessary dwellings, work-places, shops, public services and open spaces (ten acres per 1,000 persons), schools (one per 1,000 persons) social, religious and recreational facilities, etc. In the inner urban area, the extent of the bomb damage has considerably facilitated the task of rehousing on these lines. This would restore the identity of many towns and villages that have become absorbed into the built-up area of London. Special "precincts" on "community" lines with no through roads are proposed for the government area of Westminster and for the University area of Bloomsbury.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Canada has sent a medical mission to study food supply problems in Burma.

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We are still ahead of Ontario as regards decent weather, but it is wise to keep one's fingers crossed when claiming so.

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So far Canada has placed 257,004 ex-Servicemen and women of this and the last war in employment through the National Selective Service organizations.

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Store-keepers, at least many of them, are still observing a five days' week, wondering when it will be possible to return to normalcy. "Six days shalt thou labour."

* * * *

Scotland's air raid casualties since the war began have been 2,298 persons killed, 2,167 injured and 3,558 slightly injured. There were 6,400 high explosive bombs and 300 parachute mines dropped and in the northeast area there were five casualties for every 1,000 persons, a rate equal to that of London during its heaviest raids. One hundred persons were killed when a first aid post in Paisley received a direct hit.

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Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton, British explorer, died this date 1922; was third lieutenant in Scott's Antarctic expedition in 1901; commanded the British Antarctic expedition in 1907-9; also the one of 1914-16; his final expedition to the south polar regions in 1921-2 proved disastrous, several of his crew and himself perishing to death from cold and hunger. His eldest son visited here in 1925 as the guest of Chief Justice and Mrs. J. A. Mathieson.

* * * *

Experience gained by Canadians operating from a station in Eastern England is helping a crack ship-finder squadron of the R. A. F. to chase German convoys from the North Sea. The squadron was once all-Canadian, but is now predominantly R. A. F., and is using the technique perfected by the Canadians. The co-operation of Wellington ship-finders, who drop their flares and illuminate the target, and the torpedo-firing Beaufighters, who come in to attack, is a new method just revealed. Since D-Day this Canadian Wellington squadron has dropped nearly 2,000 flares on over 100 targets.

* * * *

Federal Department of Agriculture estimates on the 1944 fruit and vegetable packs were submitted to the Ontario canners in convention in Toronto recently and the figures indicate a substantial increase over last year on many items. Cheese makers may now produce cheese in any size and either white or colored to be sold domestically—if they can get the coloring. Since June 26 all cheese made in Ontario and Quebec has been held for export to Britain. It was recently announced that the United States was getting 5,000 tons of figs from Turkey, but Canada will not see any part of this shipment nor will we receive any direct from Turkey in the near future, according to *Canadian Grocer*.

* * * *

Payment of war service gratuities began this week when approximately 35,000 cheques, averaging $100 each, will be mailed to discharged service personnel or to the dependents of men killed on active service it was learned recently. Mr. C. C. Duncan, chief of the cheque disbursement division of Finance Department, said that the cheques — 25,000 of them will go to former army personnel and 10,000 to former navy and air force men—represened only a fraction of the number the department was prepared to sent out. Mr. Duncan said his department had expected to distribute about 90,000 cheques but many ex-servicemen had not applied for the gratuities. Appeals to ex-servicemen to fill in gratuity application forms, available at all district and sub-district offices of the Veterans' Affairs Department, had not brought the expected response. Under the gratuity legislation passed at the last session of Parliament the mustering out pay was based on the following scale: 1. For every 30 days service in the Western Hemisphere, excluding the Aleutian Islands, $7.50. 2. For every 30 days of service overseas, or in the Aleutians, $15; 3. For each six months of service overseas or in the Aleutians, an additional seven days pay and allowances.

Notes By The Way

There is, so to speak, a greater resemblance than appears on the surface between prayer meetings and peace conferences. The people who need them least attend. — Guelph Mercury.

So 36,000 cases of Scotch whisky —432,000 bottles—have been landed in Canada! Sounds like a lot of whisky, but it's actually about one bottle for each 25 inhabitants. Put in another way, the share of the individual Canadian is one ounce.—Ottawa Journal.

The report that Goering is now wearing a toga has led many papers to say that he is crazy. We think that the explanation may be found in the old rhyme:

A man down in the Amazon
Put nighties of his gramma's on;
The fact was that
He was too fat
To get his own pyjamas on.

Painful though it is to hear that our eighteen-year-old servicemen are now entering the combat areas in ever larger numbers, there is comfort in the realization that this policy may well shorten the war and thus prove the salvation of many lives. Audacity, endurance, nerve and recuperative powers are probably better blended in men at eighteen than at any other time. —Chicago Daily News.

Castor oil, the production of which has reached a high level in Brazil, has several advantages over other oils, says the Brazil Bulletin. It is particularly suitable for aircraft engines in view of its very low freezing point, its adhesiveness and its great resistance to heat; in addition, its percentage of residue and its solubility in gasoline or benzine are both very low.

The Land Office Commissioner of the United States Government has given official assurance to rocket people that under provisions of the national Homestead Law they may be granted land claims on the moon if they fill in the proper forms. We don't for a moment think that the Land Office Commissioner was doing anything more than being nice to the folks who want to soar through space. However, there is a principle involved. The worthy commissioner should check with the State Department's pronouncement that the United States stands firmly against intervening in the affairs of other people. Has the Man in the Moon no rights?—Montreal Star.

Goebbels is telling the German people that if they continue to resist the allies they will increase the "already widespread war weariness in the enemy camp." The Japs, too, figure that if they can hold out long enough the allies will become so tired of the war that they will accept a negotiated peace. Against both over-confidence and war weariness the allies must steel themselves. They ARE tired of war. They didn't want it in the first place. Yet they are more tired of having to meet aggression every twenty or thirty years. Goebbels and the Japs notwithstanding, this time the allies intend to fight it out until there is hope of an enduring peace. — Detroit Free Press.

A method for producing "synthetic blood plasma" from a by-product of a sugar manufacturer has been developed by two Swedish scientists, Anders Groenwall and Bjoern Ingelman, according to news which came from Sweden recently. Dextran is the name given the material. Unlimited production is said to be possible. Dextran can be easily transported as a powder. If it turns out to be a substitute for whole blood, matching types will be unnecessary. The product is not as yet available in this country.

Taking the two liberations — Brussels and Paris—there are essential differences, says the Manchester Guardian. From the day the Germans left, Brussels functioned almost normally. The trams, which are excellent, were running and there was electric light and cooking facilities. In fact, the town functioned normally except for hot water and taxis. The first days in Paris were very different. The Underground (Metro), which corresponds to the Brussels trams, took weeks to start up a limited service. Until it did there was no form of public transport at all. There was by and large, no light or cooking facilities. Now there is electric light, more gas, but still no hot water—and no lifts, taxis or buses.

If all persons were rational, nutritional education would be very simple. They would learn promptly and would act wisely after observing the ill-effects of deficient diets and the benefits of health and development brought about by the eating of the right kinds of foods. But in this respect people have not always behaved as rational beings. Many have read and are reading about deficieny diseases and the rewards in health and welfare that fall to those who eat balanced meals. But they cannot be bothered to make the effort to break away from their old habits. However, the entire human race is not irrational and stubborn in its food habits and many have learned and are learning by experience and education to change their food habits. — Victoria Times.

A British version of Soviet Russia's children's theatre movement was launched this fall under the leadership of Dr. James Mallon, one of the governors of the BBC and warden of Toynbee Hall, London's historic social settlement house. The British Children's Theatre company is a permanent touring group of 15 professional adult players, complete with orchestra, stage staff, portable scenery and lighting. It opened in Manchester in October and is now on tour. Educational authorities in the various areas have undertaken to pay all expenses and make travelling and billeting arrangements for the company. The theatre aims to serve youngsters between seven and sixteen. Four productions a year are scheduled, for which plays are to be specially written by modern authors and adapted from the classics. Before the war the Soviet Union had 100 such children's theatres, with three in Moscow.—From the Toronto Star.

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.

SPRING PARK PLAY GROUNDS

Sir,—This is an appeal from the youths and parents residing in Gaytown to the City Councillors, not to sell our play grounds. On these grounds, our fathers played baseball, and we boys have and, are enjoying same privileges.

Our parents deal and buy from the City Stores, and invest in accident, life and fire insurance &c.

There are 140 or more scholars attending our school, and those old enough to mingle and play with the youths do so on the Spring Park grounds. Yet if this right and privilege is taken away from us, we will not have any playgrounds, only on the street. This street is quite narrow. Buses running in and out several times a day will increase the danger to children. We note that certain members of the service clubs are arranging to erect slides, open air rinks, etc. in order for us to be entertained when school is out. Well, this Park area is an ideal spot for said club members to provide an ideal playground in order to keep us boys off the street.

We have the use of the A.R.P. Fire Hall No. 6 to dress for different sports and warm ourselves.

What is behind this scheme to sell this Park area? Just for one reason, to enable a wealthy corporation to escape paying to the City real estate tax. In the Dec. 4 issue of the Guardian a letter signed by "Landlubber" refers to several sites suitable for I.M.T. to build on. One site he overlooked is bordered by Birchwood street.

The boys and youths of this section are hoping that this appeal to the Mayor and City Council will not fall on deaf ears.

I am, Sir, etc.,
FAIR PLAY

NO TIME FOR POLITICS

Sir, — Bravo! Bravo! "Soldier's Mother." In your letter to The Guardian of December 19 you expressed the sentiment, I am sure, of every soldier's wife and mother. This is no time for politics in our Government; it is a time for action and plenty of it. Perhaps if we had a little more action our boys, to quote "Soldier's Mother" would not "be slogging through the mud of Holland and climbing the hills of Italy."

Whenever the plebiscite was put to us in 1942, my husband and I walked to the polls to vote "yes" with all our hearts, knowing full well that it might mean the separation of our little family. Later when he got his call-up along with several others of our community, he was the only one to be received into the army. Forthwith he volunteered for active service and is now serving in Holland. Two of the others received a military discharge, and another a postponement through influence. Now I ask you: Is that justice? Personally I don't think so.

And when this bloody war is over —what kind of a welcome will our boys receive when they return — and pray God they will return. If it is anything like what some of our boys have already received, I am afraid they are in for a lot of dissappointment.

We, as Canadians, are inclined to criticize the Americans for their braggart talk after the last war but—whenever we look things over we find the American soldiers really get a break. For example, one of our boys in this community was transferred into the American army. He immediately wrote home and told them not to send cigarettes or candy as he already received plenty. Now we at home send box after box and pay postage to hear that their mail is delayed or oftimes not received. Also, the beneficiaries of our boys if killed in action, cannot receive the insurance they carry in full but just the premium paid therein, whereas every American soldier is insured for from two to ten thousand dollars. There are many things I can mention about the Americans; they go in for their war effort more; their forces are united, and wear the same uniforms; their people really welcome them back and not only their own soldiers but ours as well. Ask any man in uniform where he will get the best treatment on his leave and he will say the United States. I am not an American and I know that I will be up for a lot of criticism for mentioning them so strongly but I am quite sure that those of you who have any one dear to you in the services will agree with me to the full extent that our boys don't get the treatment they deserve.

I have wanted to write this letter for a long while and now that I have it "off my chest" I feel much better and I hope that we hear from more of our soldiers' wives and mothers because we are really fighting right alongside of our men, although many miles separated.

I am, Sir, etc.,
A SOLDIER'S WIFE

Nazi Counter Offensive Is At A Standstill

(By Dewitt MacKenzie, Associated Press War Analyst)

The German counter-offensive finally has been clubbed down to a near standstill and we now are witnessing the preliminaries of what is likely to develop into a vast, liquid battle which may determine the duration of the European conflict.

This is one of the great moments of the war, for there's a fighting chance that Gen. Eisenhower may be able to trap and annihilate a large part of the German forces.

The position is that the Allies have stopped the German drive short of the Meuse River and their vital communication centres of Liege, Namur and Sedan. Not only that, but American forces have been making dangerous slashes into the perimeter of the big bulge which Von Rundstedt has thrust into Allied territory.

Von Rundstedt has ceased, at least temporarily, to try to expand his salient and seems to be devoting his energies to consolidating his positions, bringing up supplies and giving his men a rest after a fortnight of terrific strain which has taken them 50 miles or more into enemy territory.

It's possible that Von Rundstedt will bring up fresh reserves and make a further lunge westward. His alternative is to hold his territorial gains as long as he can and then, as I pointed out in a previous column, fight a rearguard action to cover his withdrawal back into his Siegfried defences.

* * *

Prudence would seem to call for the latter operation, for the German is in a highly dangerous position. The salient which he has driven into the Allied line now is longer than it is wide at its base, and that's an invitation to Eisenhower to press counter-attacks at the base of the Nazi flanks and try to slash the German bulge off altogether. Should this succeed, Eisenhower would then have his enemy ready for the kill.

The Allied Commander hasn't wasted any time in taking advantage of this position. The U.S. 1st Army has been slashing at the German flank from the north, while Lt.-Gen. Patton has been ripping in his usual spectacular fashion into the southern flank.

Patton again is in the limelight. The spectacular manner in which he drove a corridor through enemy territory to carry relief to an American force surrounded in Bastogne is one of the epics of the war. But he's playing a much bigger part than that.

Patton's slashing thrust with his steel cavalry into the German southern flank probably is the greatest single threat hanging over Von Rundstedt at the moment.

The over-all picture will be easier to read a few days hence. The battle is by no means fully joined as yet, but the great clash can't long be delayed.

How To Quit Smoking

(Exchange)

Out of the prevailing shortage of cigarettes has come an opportunity for smokers to wean themselves of the habit. A wide variety of "cures" and methods is available, and some of them call for Spartan endurance which tends to make the treatment worse than the malady.

Ten cents' worth of camomile, made into a tea and taken at meals and bedtime, is praised as a brew that will kill the appetite for tobacco and also relieve forms of nervousness. Those who are not able to carry their own camomile and teapot are told that they can get almost equal results by carrying a little box of pulverized ginger. When the fragrance of the weed from other smokers threaten to become overpowering, the resolute one is advised simply to take a pinch of the ginger, and the perilous moment can be passed without succumbing. If one is out dining with friends, and others at the table light up during the meal, all the suffering individual should do it reach quickly for an oyster on the half shell, powder it with red pepper and then slide it down the hatch. A smoke is just about the last thing a one craves for at that moment—and another narrow bridge is crossed in safety. If oysters on the half shell are not available, then cheese or bread, similarly charged with red pepper, can serve as effective substitutes.

The chewing of certain herbs and roots is also recommended, including gentian, sassafras, lovage, licorice flag and marshmallow, mixed and chewed like gum. Forms of immersion are likewise suggested for a 14-day period. First, you wind yourself into a sheet, fill the bathtub about half full of warm water and get in. Then the hot water is turned on again until the temperature of the bath is extremely warm, and the occupant immersed for twenty steaming minutes. This is followed with another cup of camomile tea, and then to bed under light covers. Restful sleep and soothed nerves

QUICKIES

By Ken Reynolds

"What makes that Coo Coo clock we got with a Guardian Want Ad—whistle?"

ANNOUNCEMENT

Having recently returned from active service and having had many years' experience in the Produce business with such well known firms as Poole & Thompson, Southgate Produce Co. and the P.E.I. Potato Growers' Association, I have decided to establish my own business, operating as

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BUS SCHEDULES

CHANGES IN SOURIS AND SUMMERSIDE TRIPS
EFFECTIVE FRIDAY, JANUARY 5th

Owing to the equipment situation beyond our control we find it necessary to cancel the following runs for this winter only.

Charlottetown-Souris 4:30 p. m. Cancelled.
Charlottetown-Souris 7:30 p. m. Remains in effect daily except Sunday.
Summerside-Charlottetown 7:15 a. m. trip from Summerside cancelled.

All other schedules remain as at present.

No change in Sunday schedules except no connections to Mainland.

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The Poet's Corner

ON HEARING A SYMPHONY OF BEETHOVEN

Sweet sounds, oh, beautiful music, do not cease!
Reject me not into the world again
With you alone is excellence and peace,
Mankind made plausible, his purpose plain.
Enchanted in your air benign and shrewd,
With limbs a-sprawl and empty faces pale,
The spiteful and the stingy and the rude
Sleep like the scullions in the fairy tale.
This moment is the best the world can give;
The tranquil blossom on the tortured stem.
Reject me not, sweet sounds, oh let me live,
Till Doom espy my towers and scatter them,
A city spell-bound under the aging sun.
Music my rampart, and my only one.

—Edna St. Vincent Millay.

are the ends sought in this treatment. You are supposed to feel so good without tobacco that you never want it again.

Another "cure," and one which is usually employed only when all others have failed, is to smoke dry tea in a new pipe, or sweet fern in a clay pipe. Now there's something which gets results. It falls within the category of those cure or kill remedies. If you survive, you can stand anything, and tobacco is not likely to harm you.

A strong will is the thing needed to conquer here and strike the shackles from one's wrists. By the way, have you got a cl—? We have left our camomile and ginger at home.

A veteran, two years in the South Pacific, tells of spots so hot the canned goods exploded. It is to be doubted, though, if the flying baked bean will ever supersede the older shrapnel.

* * *

If a man has a six-foot beard he's all set to wear the Christmas tie.

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