THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

THURSDAY, FEB. 24, 1944

Farm Machinery

It is encouraging to note, on official authority, that the outlook for farm machinery this year is somewhat better than last year. An allocation has been made of approximately 80 per cent of the 1940-41 tonnage for new machines and 150 per cent of that tonnage for repair parts. There may also be some relaxation of the limitation of sizes and models. Moreover some of the smaller machines have been removed from the ration restrictions. About half the Canadian supply of farm machinery is imported from the United States, and it is claimed that Canadian farmers have been receiving about the same proportion of farm equipment as has been made available to farmers in the neighboring republic. This, however, was by no means sufficient last year. The original 1943 allocation of materials for farm machinery was only 25 per cent of the 1940 tonnage for new machines and 150 per cent for repair parts. The sizes and models were reduced to 90 per cent in an effort to meet the reduction in materials. As the season developed, it became necessary to secure additional allocations and this allocation finally represented 35 per cent of 1940 for new machines and 165 for repair parts.

In the House of Commons and in provincial legislatures, including our own, strong complaint has been voiced with regard to the shortage of farm machinery. This shortage, coupled with that of labour supply, are two of the most serious problems in farm production at the present time. In view of the emphasis placed at Ottawa on the importance of the farm front, more adequate provision both of labor and machinery should be regarded as a federal obligation.

Chickens Home To Roost

A Mackenzie King henchman from Quebec—L. Philippe Picard, member for Bellechasse and formerly private secretary to the late Right Hon. Ernest Lapointe, waxed indignant about the "isolationism of certain groups" in his native province the other day. His fiery eloquence, says News, was much admired by the old guard, and served as inspiration to one of his compatriots, Frederic Dorion, Charlevoix-Saguenay Nationalist.

M. Dorion was of the opinion that, if isolationism was a Quebec trait, Ottawa Liberals should be the last to complain, to express surprise, or to reproach the isolationists. From 1917 to 1939, he declared, the Liberal Party had striven without ceasing to create in Quebec the spirit of isolationism.

And in justification of that assertion, M. Dorion quoted from the speeches of Ernest Lapointe—Mr. Picard's late employer — Rt. Hon. W. L. M. King, and Hon. C. G. Power. He also introduced extracts from editorials and news reports, together with cartoons and headlines from Le Soleil, Party organ of the Quebec Liberals. One famous cartoon he recalled was that of the 1925 election, in which Mr. King's opponent, Arthur Meighen, was represented as in the act of placing Canada in two large and outstretched hands, dripping gore and labelled "Imperialism."

Then there was the election report, printed by Le Soleil as coming from London, beginning: "In Great Britain it is hoped the Conservatives shall triumph in Canada, so that war may be waged in Egypt and India."

That, said M. Dorion, was a 1930 sample of the campaign carried on on Mr. King's behalf during 25 years, for the purpose of stirring the people of Quebec against conscription, as they were stirred in 1917, in 1921, and again in 1935. "Then, Mr. Speaker, people wonder why it is there are isolationists in Quebec."

Canadian Convoys

On the outbreak of war, the Royal Canadian Navy consisted of 15 ships and 1,700 men. On this foundation a navy now numbering more than 74,000 men and 600 ships was built.

This new navy was designed primarily to do one particular job, that of guarding convoys. For this purpose Canada built up a fleet of small, sturdy fighting ships capable of standing the pounding of North Atlantic seas, fast and manouverable enough to elude enemy torpedoes and run down enemy submarines.

Most famous of these small ships is the corvette. Canadian shipyards have turned out large numbers of them. The R.C.N. also uses frigates, larger and faster than the corvette, minesweepers and destroyers for convoy work.

Within six days of Canada's entry into the war the first convoy of merchant vessels left Canada for the United Kingdom. In the four years since then more than 100,000,000 tons of food, munitions and essential materials have been transported over the North Atlantic. In the protection of this route the R.C.N. and Royal Navy share responsibility, assisted by escort vessels of the United States Navy and the air forces of Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.

About Life Insurance

In view of the C.C.F. proposal that the life insurance business should all be taken over by the Government, it is interesting to consider New Zealand's experience. For seventy years it has had a government life insurance department, but private companies continued in operation. The Government has been able to secure only 20 per cent of the insurance business, and the competing companies have 80 per cent. They doubtless spend a good deal of money in securing business, but they make it up on the investment of their fund. They seem to have no trouble in competing with the govment system, in spite of the advantages which some people think it should have.

The reason for this is obvious. The private insurance companies are able to pay the expenses involved in promoting their business and still complete successfully with the government in the fixing of insurance rates, because of their experience in investments and bcause they have to be efficient and more provident with their funds than a government system which can rely on the public purse.

It seems a clear deduction from the fact that New Zealand has not taken over all the life insurance business, that the private companies are recognized as rendering a useful service, and that the advantages of a government system are not by any means what some people suppose.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

"Rest and be thankful" will be the slogan during the next ten weeks for those socially inclined.

* * * *

A Toronto coroner's jury has urged Government action to prohibit the sale of lotions containing alcohol. The jury verdict was that Norman McLean, 61, died in Toronto jail Feb. 1 from broncho-pneumonia, brought on by drinking face lotions

* * * *

Mr. H. H. Bloom, administrator of farm machinery for the Prices Board announces an increase of 45 per cent over the 1941-42 period in the supply of essential new machinery to Canadian farms. This is 20 per cent less than provided during 1940-41. Manufacture of repair parts has been set at 150 per cent of the 1940-41 quota.

* * * *

Thomas Bowdler, English physician, educationist and philanthropist, died this date 1825; he enjoyed the luxury of a private fortune, and devoted his time largely to editing a 10 volume edition of "The Family Shakespeare" in which were omitted all expressions which might offend the prudish sense; from his name is derived the phrase "to bowdlerize"; though execrated by many, his work has been praised by Swinburne.

* * * *

When Quebec provincial elections are to come remains a secret probably only in the possession of Premier Godbout, but in political circles indications are that the government intends to be ready for launching at short notice. There is under way recruiting for the provincial police force, temporary appointments for the most part, which is a sign of the times, and there are to be realignments in the political organization work at least in the Quebec district. While the Premier is uncommunicative, officials by their actions speak louder than words.

* * * *

It may have been a typographical error, but there's more truth than fiction in this story. A Civil Service officer at Ottawa wired a stenographer out West that there was "a Grade 2 position open here in Ottawa", and requested that she "make arrangements to arrive here" the following week. In reply she sent a telegram saying: "Impossible to accept position Stop cost of loving too high in Ottawa."

* * * *

The proposed conference of Empire Prime Ministers may not be held until June. There do not appear to be any negotiations going on through the agency of the various High Commissioners' offices in London to arrange details of the conference. Such negotiations are normal preliminary to such a meeting. However there is always the possibility that Prime Minister Churchill is in communication direct with Prime Ministers Mackenzie King, Curtin, Fraser and Smuts of, respectively, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa; while the Canadian High Commissioner has arrived in Ottawa for conference with the Government

* * * *

The earlier Easter mails for overseas are posted this year the better chance they have of being delivered in time, because war conditions dictate that a fair time elapses between posting and delivery. Easter Day falls on April 9 this year and, while March 1—some five weeks previous—has been set as the latest date on which Easter mail can be posted with a reasonable expectation of delivery for Easter Day, the public is urged not to wait until the last minute for posting. Mail is recognized as one of the greatest factors in keeping the troops in cheerful spirits—Easter or any other holiday, birthday or anniversary should not be allowed to pass without sending a special message or gift to that relative or friend on active service, it was stated.

* * * *

The city executive and members of Montreal City Council have at last achieved adoption of a definite, official measure for refinancing of the city's debt, with relative speed after its formal submission to the Council, says the Gazette. The nearly four years that have elapsed since Montreal first defaulted on meeting principal payments of bond maturities; the failure of Council to approve the first refinancing scheme two years ago; and the strong objections of some councillors to the present plan, did not make the prospect any too rosy for rapid endorsation of the scheme. The way is now cleared for submission of a concrete, officially endorsed proposal to committees representative of Canadian, United States, British and Dutch bondholders. Once having obtained acceptance of its creditors, Montreal will then be in a position to implement the plan and resume regular honoring of its obligations after four years of failing to meet the requirements of its contractual debt. That Montreal can once more hold its head up and pay its just debts is vitally important, but it is only one, though perhaps the most urgent, of the jobs to be done. There is a far broader and deeper task of financial housecleaning to be done to rectify the conditions that led to the default, and to establish the refinancing on a sound and permanent basi

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.

IN DEFENCE OF DR. CUNNINGHAM

Sir,— In a late copy of the Guardian, reading the reports of the proceedings of the Local House, I noticed the uncalled for and derogatory remarks made by Premier Jones about Dr. Cunningham of Summerside. In reading further, to notice that our Summerside members made no protest or rebuke to the Premier, who apparently taking advantage of his position, spoke of a man not present to defend himself, I was surprised and sorry.

At least, Dr. Cunningham is a veteran of the last war. He has a large practice, is most efficient in his professional duties and is alway a gentleman.

I am, Sir, etc.
FAIR PLAY.

FOR BOYS RETURNING

Sir,— Some of our soldiers are returning from the war. I believe the Government is appointing gentlemen as potato inspectors, fishery inspectors, etc. I would like to see the boys who served their country get these government positions as they return. This would permit the few old war veterans holding some of those positions to be pensioned off and let rest of them go back to their farms where they are badly needed now.

I have heard it said that the boys who served their country in the last war did not get preference in Government positions but it was going to be different this time. I would say that now is the time for action to keep up the morale of the boys over there, and those that will have to go when their call comes. It will be good for them to know that we are not going to let them down at home.

I am, Sir, etc.
W.R.M

THAT TUNNEL

Sir,—Remarks have been made by two members of the House of the benefit a tunnel would be to Prince Edward Island, but no mention was made about a causeway.

One member asked me what is a causeway. Well, a causeway starts at the top of the sea-bottom and is built of pieces of rock or other material until it comes to the surface. There it is built high enough and wide enough on the surface to admit of a rail track and an automobile road. You are travelling on the top the same as our highway and you keep it in repair the same as our C N R. road bed by dumping material over the sides.

A causeway is practical because there are several in the world. The longest that I know of is 26 miles long which was completed in 1932 and up to the present time has not been interfered with by the Germans.

A causeway would make continuous communication and would stop ice conditions in the Straits in the wintertime, and the most likeable feature is you are travelling in daylight all the time while it is light; and the most redeeming feature is it costs less than any other structure according to the great engineers of the day.

I am, Sir, etc.
TRAVELLER.

R.C.A.F. WARNING

Sir,—We have experienced considerable difficulty with farmers in the vicinity of this Unit, in that they are removing and retaining tow-targets and related gear from our drogue dropping field. It has been the policy of the R.C.A.F. to pay a small reward for such lost equipment if it drops on properties adjacent to the Aerodrome. The result is, that at this, as well as other Bombing and Gunnery Schools, in order to obtain the reward, thieves in the neighborhood make it a point to steal the equipment off the drome. To counteract this condition it would be appreciated if you would publish the following article taken from the Mont-Joli "Target" No. 9 Bombing and Gunnery School, February 19-44.

"Drogue Snatcher Fined $500.00"

"For stealing drogues dropped by aircraft of this school, Fortunat Saucier, farmer of this district, was fined $500.00 and costs or 90 days in jail by Judge Caron in Rimouski.

"Saucier, whose farm adjoins No. 9, has been in the habit of retaining drogues that fell on his land, and has on occasion threatened airmen attempting to recover them. He was warned he would be charged under Defence of Canada Regulations, and action was finally taken against him.

"At the trial before Judge Caron, Saucier pleaded not guilty but the evidence adduced by the R.C.A.F. and R.C.M.P. was sufficient to bring conviction and the fine or alternative jail sentence was imposed. The farmer paid the fine, plus costs."

Thanking you for this anticipated courtesy,

I am Sir, etc.

(J. J. HARRIS) F-L.
Station Armament Officer,
No. 10 Bombing and Gunnery School,
Mount Pleasant, P. E. I.

The Plight Of M. P.'s

(Exchange)

The plea of R. W. Gladstone, M.P., that members who owe allegiance to the party in power should be enabled to vote as their conscience dictates and not always on party lines is perhaps a little too sensible to find ready approval in parliament. But it is surely a reform that could be introduced with little trouble.

At present, when a government measure is defeated. There are well-established precedents for this fact, and it has come about through long parliamentary experience in the past. Nevertheless, it is a bit absurd for a government supporter to have to vote in favor of bills he cordially disapproves as well as bills which he approves.

Mr. Gladstone proposes that confidence or want-of-confidence in a government, after non-acceptance of proposed legislation, should be determined by a separate vote. There may be flaws in this suggestion and it might, in fact, add up to the same result if confidence votes were separated from particular legislation. But the dilemma of conscientious members to which Mr. Gladstone draws attention is a real one and its continued existence not only leads to members becoming aware of a sense of futility, but it fosters the conviction among the people that ordinary members of parliament are merely rubber-stamps.

Lenten Meditations from The London Times

SPIRITUAL COMBAT

Present circumstances lend a peculiar significance to a feature of our Lord's ministry which receives little attention to-day, though it impressed his contemporaries vividly—namely, his warfare with evil spirits. Warfare is the right term to use, for it is the metaphor he used himself in interpreting this side of his activity. Whatever we may think of the phenomena of devil-possession, there are difficulties in regarding them as simply cases of nervous or mental disorder which modern knowledge can explain otherwise; they are encountered too often in the contemporary mission-field, and yield too often to the power of exorcism, for such explanations to be wholly satisfying.

To the mind of our Lord and the Evangelists these phenomena represent inroads made by supernatural powers of evil upon human life and personality; these powers of evil are thought of as the armed forces of a demonic kingdom which has a great hold upon man, and needs to be overthrown by one who is stronger. When we pass from the Gospel story to the first age of the Church, cases of individual possession and exorcism recede into the background, but the idea of the world as subject to "spirit-powers of evil"—to use a phrase adopted by a modern interpreter of St. Paul—occupies a very prominent place. So far, that is to say, from minimizing the demonic nature of the evils besetting human life to which the Gospels testify, the Apostolic writers enhance it; the conflict between right and wrong which makes up the stuff of history is set against a background of a more solemn and tremendous conflict — a warfare in which there is no discharge.

The application of these ideas to a nation which is fighting for the first principles of good in human life is obvious: our earthly conflict, stern and grim as it is, is but a part of a larger one which will not end with any armistice. To acquit ourselves well in this struggle we need the whole armour of the Christian life—truth, righteousness, the word of God, faith, and, by a kind of paradox, minds prepared for and bent towards peace. The leader in God's battle against the spirit-powers of evil which devastate human life is Christ, whose victory over them was sealed in the Cross.

But though the assurance of ultimate victory is ours, the Church's warfare is not yet accomplished; and we are called upon in Lent to take to ourselves two weapons of especial power—namely, prayer and self-discipline. They were part of our Lord's own armoury on earth, and we must use them as means of uniting us with him in his Passion. His forty days' fast in the wilderness, his homelessness, his silence before his accusers, and, above all, his fortitude on Calvary, are the index of his powers of self-discipline, just as his prayer in Gethsemane and his words of supplication from the Cross are the climax of the hours of communion with his heavenly father which had marked his days and nights on earth. If the Church uses Lent in this way its members will strengthen the fibre of their resolution for the critical phase of the war, and they will also be doing what they can to make sure that when the evil thing which is now ravaging the world has been exorcised, its place shall not be taken by other powers of evil even worse than itself.

Saturation Bombing

(Winnipeg Tribune)

Gen. H. H. Arnold, commanding the Eighth Air Force of the United States Army, has revealed that these bombers based on Britain have adopted a method of bombing through cloud.

This marks a distinct shift toward the "saturation bombing" policy of the Royal Air Force and it increases the already excellent co-ordination of effort between the British and American bombing forces.

Last Friday's attack on Frankfort in which 800 Liberators and Flying Fortresses dropped 600 tons of bombs on the city was the largest instance to date of American saturation bombing. While precision bombing against pinpoint targets has its uses, there are not more than fifty days a year over Northern France and Germany when the ground is visible from 25,000 feet.

While Berlin is being destroyed by heavy night attacks American day bombing is achieving similar results in daytime saturation raids on secondary production centres in cloudy weather, while precision bombing is directed against such key points as assembly sheds on days when the weather is relatively clear.

If a town has hundreds of small plants making component parts, area bombing by night, is still the best method of paralyzing it. Big industrial areas can be pounded most effectively by the Eighth Air Force. If the target is deep in Germany, night bombing is best; if it is on the "invasion coast" or an industrial target in the occupied area, it is listed for a clear-day bullseye by the Americans.

Like the one-two punch so effectively used by the Red Army on numerous occasions, the two-bomber forces' teamwork is operating against the German war production machine on a round-the-clock program with telling effect.

Canadian System Favored

(David Lawrence in New York Times)

The Canadian parliamentary system is what the United States should adopt. Then we could avoid the necessity of holding elections in the midst of some national crisis where continuity of administration might be imperative. We could acquire also a new sense of responsibility in the relations of the executive and the legislative branches of the government. Woodrow Wilson foresaw this need as far back as the 1880's and advocated it again as president-elect in February, 1913, in a historic letter to congress on the subject of presidential tenure.

Today it is a debatable question whether congress in failing to write legislative standards into the anti-inflation law has not bungled the wage and price problem. For when the executive proclaims restrictions, congress and the special group affected interpose objection that threaten the whole structure of price and wage control and tend thus to increase the dangers of inflation. There will be considerable passing of the buck on this issue from one branch of the government to the other in the next few months.

If we had a parliamentary system, the executive and legislative branches and all appointees would be merged into a single unit and be compelled to accept responsibility overnight for any blunder. This does not necessarily mean in actual practice a series of elections. It means that the mere threat of an election to test power could force a change in policy or in personnel. This has worked in the British Commonwealth of Nations, and it can work successfully for us because it is true democracy to give the people an instantaneous check on their rulers.

LIFE can Begin AFTER 40, IF..

Around 40 our energy lessens. But, experience has taught us to do our work with less effort. The years ahead should yield the greatest accomplishments, the most enjoyment and happiness. They can, too, if we avoid the kidney and bladder disorders such as Backache, Headache, Rheumatic Pains, Lassitude, Loss of Sleep and Energy which so often attack those around 40. For over half a century Dodd's Kidney Pills have been helping men and women to keep kidneys and bladder in good order. If you are nearing 40, or past it, for the sake of your health and a happier future use Dodd's Kidney Pills today! 125

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Henderson & Cudmore

MEN'S WEAR

Notes By The Way

A fund-raising committee in the West sells tickets to a banquet which it says frankly will not be held. When one considers the speeches that will not be delivered, one will buy six. —Winnipeg Tribune.

So many Canadians are talking and acting as though this war was over. Try to tell the Canadians dying in Italy that the war is over. They know the Germans are fighting hard and that many men will fall before the end comes —W. L. Clark in Windsor Star.

—Joseph Elman is the 15-year-old son of Mischa Elman. The youngster has been taking violin lessons and promises to be an able musician. Last week, while the boy was playing a practice piece, his illustrious father tried to correct him, and showed him how it should be played. "Oh, no," Joseph insisted, "my teacher says that's wrong, and my teacher knows." "Do you want to be a teacher, or do you want to be a concert violinist?" Mischa Elman asked his son—who replied: "I don't want to be a concert violinist." "Good," said Elman. "That means one competitor less."—Leonard Lyons, in Magazine Digest.

Nine voters in the Transvaal who had to go seventy miles to cast their ballots, arrived after risking their lives to get across a flooded river on swimming horses, it is revealed in Kroonstad. Two horses swam side by side the guide crossing downstream to assist if any riders were washed off. The stream ran so strongly that the horses came out 500 yards below where they entered the water. The women in the saddles were waist-deep in water. —Exchange

From a letter by an American soldier in Africa: "It gave me a funny feeling to see some newsreels of the Tunisian war and to be sitting next to men who had fought in the same campaign. There were also many photos of and praise of guys like Eisenhower, Patton, etc., with no pictures or comment on Alexander, Montgomery, etc. who everybody over here knows were responsible for the entire victory practically. It sort of gripes the Tommies, and I don't blame them a bit." —Nation, New York.

We had better all of us open our eyes. We cheat ourselves if we permit the possibility of a sudden German collapse to become fixed in our minds as the probability. There may be collapse, but because the more likely alternative is the bitterest and most costly fighting of all the war, it is folly to let our public and private behavior in any degree seem to be governed by an unreasoning persuasion that we are near the end of the war. — Vancouver Province.

One reads that the men of an American service unit somewhere in this global war were allowed by their commander, in reward for accomplishing an exceptionally difficult mission, to have breakfast in bed next day. The item stirs nostalgic reflections. Breakfast in bed- Can any other boon match it for pure delight? Memory cherishes a few blissful occasions of the sort. The luxurious indolence of them, the effortless ease. The soft pillows, the smoothed spread, the tray on the languorous knees. The succulent citrus juice iced. The salted and peppered egg, the buttery toast, the steaming cup. The morning paper fresh from the dewy doorstep. Above all the indulgent smile, the kind word. Oh, boy! They were a long way back those high moments of life's tedious journey. No breakfast in bed any more on the faded home front, not since Pearl Harbor. Instead, the rude alarms of the vigilant clock, the hasty cereal in the chilly pantry, the dash for the bus in the reluctant dawn of Eastern war time. . . . Yet surely it will be over some day, all this hurry of war production and bond drives and business under difficulties. And then! Meanwhile, a civilan's envious felicitations to the lads of that American unit, breakfasting in bed in the danger zone! Their valor will yet preserve the glorious institution of breakfast in bed for all of us. — From the New York Times.

The Poet's Corner

VALE

His was the fleeting to a finer fa
No greater prize
Ever awarded to the passing gre
than that they rise
Above the boundaries of mor
things.
It is not dea
But life from his window . . .
is open now,
Unclouded with living breath.

Oh, it was bright before; his ey
shone deep and clear
Into the truth of things. And w
and void of fear
He drove his gently smiling w
dom home.
Sharp bloodless blad
And with a kindly heart that fir
a flare
Whose glow will never fade.

He wrote great works while he w
here. He was an age
Of greatness in himself, and dea
is dear. Now comes a page
Of far more valiant works for hi
to do.
Sir, you will writ
With wondrous courage in a wo
drous world, and truth
Stand naked in the light.

—Mary Elizabeth Bay

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War-time **THRIFTY** *Borrowing*

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