THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1944

As V-Day Approaches

As the war enters its last phase, it enters as well a phase that will be new. Hitherto we have been aided by the underground and anti-Nazi forces of France and Poland and Romania and Yugoslavia. In Russia, the guerilla armies harassed the Germans at every step. But in Germany herself there will be no such help. The sniping from the roof-tops of Paris will likely be multiplied a hundredfold during the struggle for the cities of Germany. This, warns one of the best informed press commentators, Mr. Walter Lipmann, is what must be expected. The doors of Hitler's fortress may shortly be smashed, but the battle for Germany will not be fought in these areas. It will be fought during the occupation of the country, and it is likely to degenerate into a whole series of local engagements in which fanatical Nazi regiments are battered into submission. If no central authority is capable of surrendering for the nation, surrender will have to come from division, battalion and even company commanders as the fighting continues.

But the end cannot long be delayed. The Germans threw everything they had into the battle of Normandy. That the battle ended so decisively and so quickly is itself an indication of Germany's dwindling strength. The frantic withdrawal of forces into the Reich is an indication that Hitler is scraping through the bottom of his manpower barrel.

An adequate defence of Germany would require fighting zones of perhaps 200 miles in depth on the east and the west. Unfortunately for Hitler, however, this would leave him a third or central zone scarcely 200 miles in width. Moreover, Germany's industrial areas, upon which will fall the weight of keeping Germany in operation, are located around the rim of the country—west of the Rhine, in eastern Silesia and in Austria—which is vulnerable to attack from the southeast. Germany's vital war factories, instead of being able to operate well behind the lines, will be in the front lines.

In these last days, however, it would be unwise to laugh off every story of new German secret weapons. The robot bomb was no laughing matter. Cornered and beaten, the Nazis will try anything, seize any instrument of warfare, however vile, in a last mad effort to stave off the inevitable.

Maintaining Fair Prices

Mr. H. H. Hannam, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, does not like the attitude of the *Financial Post* of Toronto towards the farm floor prices legislation passed at the last session of Parliament. The *Post* has emphasized that since Canada is an exporting nation in food products, world prices ought to be the controlling factor in fixing farmers' prices. Mr. Hannam takes particular exception to the concluding paragraph of the *Post's* editorial, which was: "Instead of worrying about keeping future farm and other prices jacked up to some artificial level, it would be far better if we concentrated on keeping costs down so that in natural lines of production Canadian goods can meet world competition."

Mr. Hannam does not like this because it singles out farm prices for particular mention. Apparently he has no quarrel if all prices and costs are reduced but he considers it unfair to make an exception of farm prices. That seems to be a reasonable stand.

Mr. Hannam believes that there are few costs the farmer can control and that labor and industry will not be willing to lower costs as quickly as food prices will decline once the pressure of war buying of huge surpluses is relieved. It will be interesting to note what the industrialists have to say to this argument, which concisely sums up the case from the farmers' standpoint.

Some Comparisons

The leader of the opposition in New Zealand recently was quoted in the Canadian House of Commons by Thomas Reid, M.P., for New Westminster, as declaring that the existing government had "tried to soft-pedal its socialistic doctrines for tactical reasons." Its C. C. F. admirers in Canada, complains the *Moncton Transcript*, have endeavored to use the same tactics in the hope of gaining office with the support of voters who seek a change but who would not vote for socialism if they understood what was involved.

What would happen if a C. C. F. government attained office in Canada may be forecast by observing what the socialist government in New Zealand has done. Again to quote the Opposition leader: "Its fundamental goal is still the socialization of the means of production, distribution and exchange. And the 'means of production' means farms—your farm."

Concerning the effects of the socialist program on the average citizen, Mr. Reid represented the following comparisons of taxation features in New Zealand and Canada:

	New Zealand	Canada
Per capita debt	$1,024	$670
Interest rate	3.24%	2.60%
Per capita interest charges	$28.75	$14.65
Income tax, single man, $700 a year	$53	$13
Income tax, married man, two children, $1,500 a year .	$154	$25.50

New Zealand socialists were to improve the lot of the average man by doing away with capitalism and by "soaking the rich." That has not been the result. Additional social security has been provided, but the ordinary citizen pays for it, as he must pay for anything he gets, whether it comes through a government or otherwise. He is carrying his share of a greatly increased public debt, and he is paying in income taxes in some cases six times as much as he would in Canada.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is the part of the Provincial Government to arrange plans for the peace celebrations.

* * * *

London, the capital of the Empire, bomb-free and lighted after five years' warfare will be something to marvel at.

* * * *

A Londoner, Mr. A. F. Leslie, has given 100 blood transfusions. 87 pints of his blood have gone to 43 hospitals.

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When a C.P.R. official praises the C.N.R. hotel here, as was done this week, the Royal York must play second fiddle to The Charlottetown.

* * * *

It is now suggested that in the new set-up of the world, Canada will replace Switzerland as the centre of peace parleys, and Quebec become the headquarters of any new League of Nations that evolves.

* * * *

In England and Wales there are now 1,500 wartime day nurseries where babies are cared for while their mothers are busy with various kinds of war work. The Ministry of Health has decided that no further nurseries are needed.

* * * *

Evidently girls are becoming fed up with beauty contests, at least so far as St. Thomas, Ont., is concerned. The promoters had to cancel this as their major feature in a Labour Day carnival, because up to Saturday the judges for the contest exceeded the entrants—even though the first prize was $100.

* * * *

General George C. Marshall, United States Chief of Staff in a directive indicates that Congress will be asked to approve a system of universal military training, under which "every able-bodied young American shall be trained to defend his country." Something similar may be advocated here.

* * * *

Henry George Charles Lascelles, Earl of Harwood, K.G., G.C.V.O., D.S.O., born this date 1882; educated at Eton and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst; was Captain in the Grenadier Guards with which he fought in Great War I; married Her Royal Highness Princess Mary (the Princess Royal) in 1922; succeeded his father in the title in 1929; has been personal A.D.C. to the King since 1936.

* * * *

Great Britain's Navy, despite the loss of 561 warships in nearly five years of sea warfare, is actually more powerful now than at the beginning of the war. Among the war losses listed up to August 13 were: Three battleships, two battle-cruisers, five aircraft carriers, two small carriers, 28 cruisers, 14 armed merchantmen, 124 destroyers, 64 submarines, seven frigates, 23 corvettes and 289 miscellaneous smaller craft. The list of miscellaneous smaller craft does not include landing craft of various types.

* * * *

Commenting on the effects blast precautions have had on English civilian life, a London correspondent writes: "There can hardly be a home in Southern England which has not recently rearranged its furniture with a view to safety from blast, rather than decorative appearance. We have also become quite expert at the technique of lying down, wherever we may be, in moments of danger. There is really an art in doing this effectively, as you must not lie flat, but supported just off the ground by elbows and knees, lest the blast tremors through the earth do unmentionable things to your interior. Blast is a serious subject of discussion and study nowadays."

* * * *

Says *The Printed Word*: "Our hospitals, our universities, our churches owe their buildings and endowments in the main to capitalists, many of whom would be termed reactionary by today's glib orators. Their gifts were made voluntarily, nor were they reduced even though the donors could easily foresee the possibility that men could be born in a capitalist-built hospital and educated in a capitalist-endowed university to attack capitalists from the pulpit of a capitalist-supported church." But admitting this, would it justify so many philanthropists hoarding their surplus gains for bequests when they could be utilized more beneficially while in the making? It was partly to remedy the abuse of wealth Sir William Vernon Harcourt introduced and had passed in Imperial Parliament the first "death duties" (i.e. succession taxes), so that the community at large would benefit from abnormal or excess profits earned by plutocrats. Unfortunately as usual, in the course of time, the load was shifted to bear heavily on the shoulders of those less able to bear it.

* * * *

The august Academie Francaise, seat of French culture and membership to which is regarded as the highest distinction for writers, artists and scientists, has decided that "certain among its members will no longer be admitted to its sessions" and announced the immediate suspension of the author and newspaper writer M. Abel-Hermant and of the former minister of national education under occupation, Abel Bonnard. Further moves in the housecleaning of the Academie may be expected in the near future—as one French newspaper pointed out Marshal Henri Philippe Petain is also a member of the institution. The Academie Francaise has a long and glorious history and has played a major role in French literature. Founded by King Louis XIII in 1635, it has survived every revolution and change of regime with only an occasional purge such as is taking place at present. As there were only 11 out of its 28 members present at the recent meeting further action has been postponed.

Notes By The Way

The word "journey" was originally applied to the distance covered in one day, usually reckoned in the middle ages as 20 miles, says Encyclopaedia Britannica. The distance we have come since stage-coach days is somewhat more than 20 miles a day. Ask any transport pilot.

Sweden is meeting the gas short-age by manufacturing methane gas in a sewage disposal plant at Stockholm for use as motor fuel for buses and other municipal vehicles. The cost is comparable to the pre-war cost of gasoline and the power derived closely corresponds to that obtained from the same fuel.

Though she wears no badge of generosity, Oscarette, the pet pigeon of veterinary surgeon Dr. Stanley Reedtz Enoe, is a bird blood donor, says Newsweek. In his Chicago hospital, the doctor has perfected a system by which the blood is taken from the pigeon's heart after an anaesthetic has been given and the heart beat carefully checked. The blood is stored in plasma form, to be injected later into the muscular systems of ailing canaries. Oscarette's blood has saved many a canary.

Young British doctors just qualified will ask for a starting salary of 560 pounds ($2,240) a year if the Government creates a National Health Service on the lines it has suggested. This was the figure proposed by the British Medical Students' Association. It was arrived at by a ballot of members on the scheme for state doctors. Doctors just beginning a career would start at about the age of 25. Most of the young men and women who replied to a questionnaire were in favor of a national scheme, yet the majority were against serving under it. — London Daily Mail.

A hundred-kroner bill doesn't go very far these days, if you want to invite your friends to a little party in a resturant in Copenhagen, according to Berlingske Tidende. Four open-face Danish sandwiches, two with lobster and two with smoked salmon, cost 22 kroner. In Esbjerg a night club charged 40 kroner for three sandwiches, one beer and one Akvavit (not a bottle, mind you, just a little shot.) For an empty Akvavit bottle the Danes pay up to 35 kroner. The explanation is this, that you cannot buy a bottle of Akvavit unless you have an empty Akvavit bottle. A sandwich with roast duck is priced at 4 kroner and 50 Ore. (Just about $1. — Scandinavian News.

Whatever else may be said about the Germans and their mad dreams of world conquest, this must be said to the credit of their intellect: They know a good idea when they see it. They have indeed a genius for recognizing ideas of great value, just as they have a genius for turning good ideas to evil account. They quickly recognized the potentialites of the submarine, an American invention, as a war weapon. They took a British invention, the tank, and turned it into a blitzkrieg spearhead. They took the airplane and made it into war's most horrible instrument. The international cartel as an instrument of national policy seems to be a German invention. Yet the basis upon which the whole German cartel system is founded springs from a brilliant idea of a British chemist, Sir William Perkins. — Winnipeg Free Press.

A good way to guard against making a fatal mistake in using a bottle of poison for some innocuous fluid is to tie a little bell around the neck of the poison bottle. Some careful housewives fasten adhesive tape on the cork and down the sides of every poison container. Others stick needles in the cork or keep them in a larger container such as a jar with the top screwed on. Since every poison bottle has a label these precauctions might seem unnecessary, if it were not a matter of record that a great many people have mistaken bottles of poison for harmless medicine with fatal results. Strange as it may seem, people often take medicine from a bottle without turning on the light or in such a dim light that they cannot see the label. Kitchen drain cleaners, insecticides and some bleaching materials which are dangerous should be kept locked up or out of reach on a high shelf, especially where there are children. — Fredereton Gleaner.

The news that Harvard Univer-sity has become the recipient of an automatic sequence - controlled calculator may not stir the schoolboy's fondest hopes, but it ought to. This algebraic superbrain will solve in a few hours equations never before solved because of their intricacy. It is an electrical gadget 81 feet long and 8 feet high, containing among other things 500 miles of wire 3,500 multiple relays, and 72 adding machines. This confirms our judgment, formed at any early age, that the human skull is not intended to house machinery for solving equations. It is vain, however, that we scan this account for what we most desire to know. Will the machine find X? If not, it is a waste of time and a lot of priority that could be better engaged in shooting off guns. Millions of schoolboys for hundreds of years have misspent their youth in the vain search for X. It has eluded their collective efforts down the centuries. — Montreal Gazette.

The Poets' Corner

A CITY BLOCK

The strident arrogance of motor horns,
A bleat-eyed derelict on shuffling feet,
The call to vespers from a cloister bell
Serene above the fretted dust blown street,
Youth's eager laugh and quick, impatient step,
A jaded figure in an old thin cloak,
A florist's window rich in vivid bloom,
The acrid belch of some tall chimney's smoke,
A blase newsboy's high persistent chant
Shrilling against the ceaseless traffic din,
Street urchins, furtive dogs — and on the curb,
A blind musician's wailing violin.

—Mary Gordon Wall.

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.

LETTER TO COL. RALSTON

Sir,—I enclose herewith for publication a copy of a letter that I have addressed to Honorable J. L. Ralston.

I am, Sir, etc.
H.K.S HEMMING

(Enclosure)

Hon. J.L. Ralston,
Minister of National Defense,
Ottawa, Ontario.

September 8th, 1944

Dear Sir:

Your letter on Island Transportation, appearing as it did in The Charlottetown Guardian the day after one written by J.A. Gillies, Secretary of the P.E.I. Co-operative Live Stock Marketing Board, in which he exhibited considerable trepidation regarding the service to be expected from the Borden ferry during the coming winter, has given the people of the Island reason for serious thought.

Your explanation of your efforts to obtain for Prince Edward Island an alternative craft during the summer season will no doubt give satisfaction. It is, of course, unfortunate that you did not at the time apprise the Island people of your diligence in the matter. This custom, however of disregarding our electors is common to all of our parliamentary representatives.

To my mind these matters that you have discussed are all of insignificant importance compared to the main question of Island transportation as a whole, to which, it is quite evident from your letter, you have not been giving the consideration that it deserves since you became our representative in the Ottawa cabinet. Being a Bluenose, where transportation conditions differ entirely from those of the Island, it is not surprising that in the past you made no attempt to master a problem that to us is of paramount importance, nor is it surprising that, performing your own important and arduous duties as Minister of National Defense, a was, because impressed with that similar omission has been made by you during the past four years. It fact, that the Island Research and Development Council wrote to you in 1940, on the occasion of your first visit to Summerside, inviting you to dine with the members of the Council at the Charlottetown Hotel and to spend the balance of the evening in discussing with them this question of Island transportation and a number of other matters of pressing importance. You accepted the invitation but caused great disappointment by breaking the appointment at the last minute, leaving Summerside by plane for Ottawa.

You will perhaps remember having telephoned to me expressing regret because of your inability to come to Charlottetown but at the same time telling me in no uncertain words that you regarded me as a pessimist. To this I replied that I was an auditor and that, in pursuance of my duties to my clients I had felt it my duty to do what I could to discover the reasons why trading in general on the Island, altogether apart from the depression, was proving unprofitable.

I also explained that after a number of years of careful investigation and research I had arrived at certain conclusions which the members of the Island Research and Development Council, after spending a whole series of meetings in discussions, had accepted unanimously and had, in fact, sent you a long, detailed explanation of same. As you gave me on the telephone no hope of being able to come to us at a later date I took no steps to have the invitation repeated and now find from your letter, as I anticipated, that in all these years you, as the Island representative in the Ottawa Cabinet, have taken no steps to improve basically these untoward conditions.

You are no doubt well versed in the history of the birth of Confederation, at which time Ontario and Quebec, having reached practically an impasse, came down to the Maritime colonies and induced them to enter into a fiscal partnership in order that they might be relieved from the constant bickering between English and French, Protestant and Catholic. You also know with what hesitation Nova Scotia and New Brunswick finally accepted the terms offered by Upper and Lower Canada. So strongly opposed were the Islanders that they refused to attend a second conference in the City of Quebec and it was only as the result, partly of coercion and partly of bribery, that the people of the Island finally joined the union. Pressure from Ottawa and London, largely on account of the Fenian raids, was very strong, while the fact that Lord Dufferin offered that Canada should reverse the British injustice of nearly a hundred years regarding the absentee landlords, and that Ottawa would assume the liability of paying for the most absurdly built railway on the Continent, caught the island people who gave in against a few weeks time reversed their opinion completely in doing so they had no idea that they were selling their precious birthright for the smallest possible mess of pottage.

The most successful of the British American colonies, with the highest then per capita wealth, Prince Edward Island had been going forward steadily for a number of years, particularly in her export trading done largely on a free trade basis. She was building sailing ships in large numbers, not only for sale to other countries but to cross the ocean over the seven seas with Island produce of all kinds. One has but to see the docks in our several harbours, all built prior to Confederation, and all now wasting away, to realize what their export trading amounted to. There was, I will admit, another cause for the trouble, quite independent of Confederation, namely that ocean steamships were in the '60's and '70's growing in numbers, in tonnage, in speed and in the lowering of carrying charges. To compete with them by sail was not possible and whether steps would have been taken by the Islanders to deepen their harbours and increase the size of their docks I do not know, but believe that there were among them many men of enterprise and brain power and it is but natural to suppose that they would have done the needful to bring the steamships to the Island. On entering Confederation, however, all ocean water fronts reverted to Ottawa, upon whom developed the responsibility in meeting new world conditions.

Another matter of even greater importance occured within six years of the Island's Confederation date, namely in 1879 when, forced to it by the United States, Canada introduced a protective tariff policy thereby offending most of the importing countries of the world. We had already been six years in Confederation and were compelled to take our medicine. The trade of the Island at once decreased and the people, finding it impossible to earn a living joined in steady exodus, some to the United States and many to the other provinces of the Dominion, no fewer than eighty to eighty-five thousand of them altogether, many of them filling positions of great importance.

Then it was that Ottawa, had she realized that inadvertently or otherwise she had deceived us into Confederation, would have said, "What is wrong with you that your people are leaving—what can we do to assist you? Quebec was not thinking economically but rather of race and creed and Ontario was inordinately selfish and made no attempt to carry out the promises made by Upper Canada. Rather did these two provinces increase their areas enormously and looked to the Prairie provinces for the main output of their industries, making use of the Maritimes only as a transportation means of export during the winter months. The three Prairie provinces are today practically an adjunct of Ontario.

From the above it will no doubt be evident to you that what P. E. Island has required all these years, and requires more than ever today, is a large widespread shipping business, sending her wares to all countries of the world. There are in Canada twelve million people of which not a quarter want to or can buy from us, and what they do is hampered at a loss because of the inordinate railway charges. There are in the rest of the world close on two thousand million people, all of them hungry. We in Prince Edward Island can, better than anywhere else on the Continent, produce the highest quality of most of the lines of what is known as temperate zone foods. Combining our agriculture and fisheries, I regard Prince Edward Island as the gem of the North America Continent. It is furthermore the shipping centre of the whole world. Study your world map and you will see this. Protected by Nova Scotia and New Brunswick from the storms of the ocean, we are in a particularly favoured position and could be one of the most important manufacturing countries in the world, selling not inwards to Canada, but outwards to all countries.

Had the financiers of Montreal and Toronto realized what a gold-mine they have had offered to them in their much-abused Prince Edward Island, they would long since have poured their millions into the building up of this Island, while Ottawa would have realized that even a worm will turn and that it can only be a comparatively short time when not only Prince Edward Island, but the two other Maritime Provinces will realize the great blunder they made in chosing Confederation partners that have had no respect for their promises.

From the above you will see that the Charlottetown - Tormentine ferry is of but secondary importance in our transportation problem and that, if our population increases as it should, the cost of landing goods from the other provinces by rail and boat would be unreasonably great and therefore either a tunnel or a causeway will require to be built at an early date, preferably by our returned men.

As this letter deals with a matter of importance to the whole Dominion I am taking the liberty of sending a copy to the press. I would moreover say that I am not an Islander by birth but have lived most of my business life in Montreal and Toronto.

Respectfully yours,
H. K. S. HEMMING
Charlottetown, September 9th 1944

SOLDIERS AND PROHIBITION

Sir,— The best that Mr T. H. Morris (see letter in Guardian Sept. 2nd) can think of as a welcome to our boys returning from overseas, is, all the beer they want to drink, to be sold to them from "clean licensed taverns." How very beer-minded Mr. Morris must be! But who ever heard of such taverns? There are no worse places on earth for the vomit of moral filth and the downfall of youth, than the taverns, and the foul-making quality of beer is one of the chief causes of this condition.

"Health-giving tonic beer!" For sooth! Mr. Morris is quite out of date. He should turn up and read: "Physiology and Hygiene", pages 179-187, used in the schools of this Province and read especially page 187:— "What medical men think of the use of alcohol." The brewers used to advertise that "a glass of beer is as nourishing as a glass of milk," but not again, for they know that now there is no one so ignorant as to believe that. The fact is, as every health reader will tell you:— Beer contains no nourishment and the alcohol in it is a narcotic poison injurious to the human body.

This land of ours is a land of "lemon extract" and "shine" Mr. Morris is thinking of particular spots in some localities but they are not the whole of this Province. The greater country portions know nothing of "Shine" or its "Substitutes". Those who remember, what P. E. Island once was for drinking and drunkeness, and compare it with to-day's general sobriety, can only lift their hearts in gratitude to God, that Prohibition came to this province when it did; and it has helped to make it the cleanest, most law-abiding and prosperous spot in the Dominion of Canada, as statistics clearly show.

No sir! If my boy comes home, he will not want to be welcomed with a jug of beer. I well know that happened to many boys who came home to Canada from the First Great War, to the shame of their mothers and fathers. My boy will want to keep his wits about him, and make good, as I know he will, in the post war world.. Mr. Morris is no friend of my boy or any others of our brave men, who are now saving the world for a better day.

I am, Sir, etc.

THE MOTHER OF AN AIR FORCE BOY OVERSEAS

Dupuy Named To Belgium Post

OTTAWA, Sept. 7 — (CP) —On the heels of Allied armies advancing through western Europe the Canadian government moved today towards re-establishment of some of the diplomatic offices closed when the Germans conquered the area in 1940.

Prime Minister King announced the appointment of Pierre Dupuy, once a sort of mystery man in diplomatic circles, as charge D'Affairs of the Canadian Embassy in Belgium. Mr. Dupuy is already in Brussels or on his way there from London where he held a similar post accredited to the Allied European governments

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