

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1945

The Manitoba Results

The sweeping victory of the Coalition Government in Manitoba under Premier Stuart S. Garson may be regarded as a triumph not only for the Government but for Hon. John Bracken, who formed the Coalition in 1940, two years before he accepted the national leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party.

Mr. Bracken achieved in Manitoba what Prime Minister King's partisanship prevented him from doing at Ottawa; he sought a union of Conservative, Liberal, and Independent parties, and even brought the C. C. F. within the Coalition orbit during his Premiership, leaving only the extreme Radical wing in Opposition.

The C. C. F. withdrew from the Coalition after Mr. Bracken entered Federal politics, and was the leading Opposition party in Monday's electoral contest. Its decisive defeat puts another damper on Socialistic hopes, but not necessarily on the hopes of those seeking social and economic reform by constitutional means.

The exact score in the election may not be known for some days. Where there are more than two candidates in a constituency, as in Winnipeg for example, the proportional representation system is used and this makes for delay in totalling the count.

Shameful Treatment

Now we know the attitude of the King Government's Defense Department towards our returning Prince Edward Island veterans. The Department does not think our boys are entitled to be discharged in their own Province on returning from overseas, and it gives two reasons. First, the advantages would be "outweighed by far" by the disadvantages which would result if the boys travelled directly home.

So it is to save money that the Government forces our boys to spend weeks kicking their heels in Halifax before getting their discharge! This is the coldest slap we have yet received from Ottawa, and it is worth noting how the veterans themselves, through their organization the Canadian Legion, look at the matter.

Being tied to Nova Scotia in the same military district, the resolution stated, "has always functioned to the detriment of our Island Province, through the Department of National Defense and Veterans Affairs. . . . The excuse given was that there are no X-ray facilities here and that no medical examiners were available, in spite of the fact that every man and woman enlisted here was X-rayed here and that X-ray facilities are still available.

The fact is that we should have had our enlistment and discharge depot here throughout the war. Our service men and their families have been put to all kinds of inconvenience and expense because of the Government's stubborn refusal to remedy this injustice.

In the case of the discharge depot, however, it was thought that this matter had been settled. Such was evidently the opinion of Premier Jones as far back as last April, when he announced in the Legislature that he had been "assured" that a military discharge depot would be established in Charlottetown.

was never any intention of meeting this modest and reasonable request in the interests of our service men.

Austria And Hungary

It is anticipated in London that a decision by the four powers represented on the Control Council of Austria to recognize the recently reconstructed provisional Government of Dr. Renner will be announced shortly. This action on the part of the United Kingdom, the United States, Russian and French Governments would be based on the report recently received from the Control Council dealing with the composition of the new Austrian Provisional Government, and with conference of provisional delegates summoned in Vienna by Dr. Renner, which led to the recognition of the Renner Government.

It is Dr. Renner's proclaimed intention that parliamentary elections should be held in Austria before the end of the year, and that a new and representative Austrian Government should be formed, based on the result of the poll. The most important innovation decided upon at the Provincial Delegates' Conference and accepted by Dr. Renner was the creation of a Government Commission of five to deal with electoral procedure, with a view to ensuring that elections should be fair and free.

Freedom of elections is the criterion which the United Kingdom applies without discrimination to the governments of countries which have been under German domination. This is the condition which the United States Government has set to the Provisional Hungarian Government; it is the condition which the United Kingdom Government has not felt disposed to recognize the Provisional Governments in these two countries.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Wednesday holiday presents a fitting opportunity to those "townies" who would like to assist in harvesting the potato crop.

Manitoba followed the lead of Ontario, and the Dominion as a whole, in discouraging C.C.F.-ism.

According to the King Government, the Province of Prince Edward Island may be big enough to lead Canada in enlistments, but not big enough to permit of a demobilization depot.

Canadian Press, which gathers and supplies news all over Canada and the world, is a non-profit making co-operative association of daily newspapers.

The delegation from the City Council today will be in Ottawa, where Mr. Douglas and Mr. McLure will introduce them to the various ministers with whom they have business. The delegates are Mayor Blanchard, City Clerk Furlertson, and City Councillor LePage.

Socialism inevitably leads to dictatorship a la Stalin. In extending its war-time control over Britain for another five years, Mr. Anthony Eden rightly declared that the Attlee Socialist Government takes powers such as no government has ever before assumed, or even asked, in times of peace.

Commenting on President Truman's statement that "a society of self-governing men is more powerful, more creative than any other kind of system, however disciplined, however centralized," Editor & Publisher says: "Some advertisers have taken it upon themselves to employ their copy to preserve such a form of government, to re-unite the thoughts of our citizenship, to head off the danger that confronts us. They have devoted a share of their advertising appropriation to do the job of selling the system under which we now live as free citizens. . . . All advertisers will see the wisdom of joining in this movement."

Feast of St. Etheldreda or St. Audrey, daughter of a King of East Anglia and Abbess of the Convent and Church of Ely, which she founded; she died 679; from her name St. Audrey, is derived an adjective in the English language in common use, viz, tawdry; at the annual fair of Ely in former times, toys of all sorts were sold, and a description of cheap necklaces, which under the denomination of tawdry laces, long enjoyed great celebrity; various allusions to St. Audrey, or tawdry, laces occur in Shakespeare, Spenser, and other writers of their age.

In process of time, the epithet tawdry came to be applied to any piece of glittering tinsel or tarnished finery.

Notes By The Way

Obituary - She was a firm believer in "votes for women" anti-vaccination and Cornet Matthe's electrocution of gladiators. - The Times (London)

Freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of worship are a precious heritage. These freedoms do not, of course, confer upon any individual, or any group of individuals the right to speak however they like about others with whom they happen to disagree.

It is reported that a Chicago banker visiting Canada said that the United States will be seeking to ban trade with Germany as soon as possible coming battle against unemployment. It is to be hoped that whatever system of trade barriers the two countries may establish in the future it will not be of the jug-handled variety.

Restrictions cannot be enforced unless people are fully willing to co-operate; money cannot be borrowed unless the vast number of citizens are willing to put off buying today to invest in tomorrow; prices cannot be kept down unless it is the will and the will of the consuming public that they be kept down, and it takes a most patient public to hold out against immediate irritations are small compared to distant hardships. - Hamilton Spectator.

This time, far more than ever before in history, man's brain is engaged in the fighting rather than his comparative inactivity. His brain has always been the better fighter. And what a fight it has been! But man never surrendered his control nor lost the mastery of one dreadful agent. He was United States and both individually and co-operatively achieved one of his greatest spiritual triumphs. He body and mind, or spirit. And he has done this in a very real sense the measure of all things than ever before. - Providence Journal.

A five-year program for the development of industrial and scientific research in India at an estimated cost of \$18,000,000 says The New York Times. It provides for the building and equipping of nine specialized laboratories and a chemical institute on the lines of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; a \$6,000,000 grant for strengthening the Indian industrial system; and the training of 700 research workers in five years. The program was formulated by the Planning Commission, appointed by the Government of India.

There should be removed from the vocabulary of the city-born that slightly contemptuous and who misinformed phrase, "just a farmer." The farmer is the backbone of the lifetime of stored-up wisdom and the hours of unremitting toil that go to make up the good farmer. Success should see him fighting, with one brain and one pair of hands, the unpredictable and the unpredictable of Nature. And they should know of the foresight and readjustment of plans that occasionally salvage some of the losses of the farmer's less situation. - G. Kitchener Record.

I hadn't heard this French Resistance story before. Apparently an old lady had taught her parrot to say "Mort aux Boches". Suddenly she had a member of the Gestapo in her house. She told the old lady that next time he heard it he would kill the parrot. Very well, she said, very well, she would exchange for hers. They swapped. The parrot said nothing. At last, losing his temper, he shouted "Mort aux Boches". The Gestapo man said, "The parrot answers your prayers, my son." - London New Statesman.

President Truman's proclamation that the United States claims all the oil and other resources of the 180,000-square-mile continental shelf which lies beneath the sea off our coasts puts into the discard the traditional three-mile limit established by international law. Most of the shelf extends well beyond this zone. The President has also asserted the right of the United States to the continental shelf in fishing areas near our coasts and these, too, are beyond the three-mile mark. The shelf contains a vast amount of oil and, no doubt, other valuable resources which we some day will find a way to acquire. The fishing industry is already of great importance to our economic life. Certainly no nation can find fault with our claims, nor could we very well object to any other similar claims for their own coastal areas. The ancient three-mile rule no longer prevails in fact. - Boston Post.

Most Canadians know something of the splendid work which was done throughout the war by the Y.M.C.A. on behalf of members of the armed services. Hundreds and thousands of letters, home-letters, many of them written on Y.M.C.A. stationery, have sung praises of the Y's work. Few, however, are fully aware of the breadth and scope of the job undertaken and carried out by the organization as its war services. This story of that effort is contained in the brochure "With Arthur Jones Through Five Years of War, reporting on the Association's services to the Army, Navy and Air Force is truly amazing. More than 16,000 workers in 3,024 locations, including 775, leave centres, clubs, rinks, sports grounds and outposts had a part in the task. Spots equipment, stationery, cigars and drinks to a value of well over a million and half dollars were issued free to men in the services. The report says: "The Y.M.C.A. has gone far beyond what ever he went, fulfilling the Christian task it undertook at the outbreak of war—patiently following the lines of his ready servant Arthur Jones and his 'buddies' whenever and wherever they could—even in prison camps. The debt to the Association sustained and completed that mission. It is a story of which Canada may be proud. - Winnipeg Tribune.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for discussion by correspondence of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

SOME FORGOTTEN MEN

Sir.—Now that our Dominion Parliament is getting down to business in this first session after the election, and with the war over, there is one class of employment that should be given consideration. I refer to our rural mail couriers, who in the weather or foul have to trudge on almost starvation wages. Now with a new Postmaster General we all hope he will be more generous with this class of employment than his predecessors and will see his way clear to adopt a system for this class of employees that will give them men at least a living wage. We have been Parliament since 1928, but as yet has not received consideration from our members and especially the new members at their first session.

Where is there an employee of the Government that has been set as hard as our rural mail couriers through almost six years of war, with prices of feeds and other equipment almost double? Yet they struggled on doing their duty nobly and well. I venture to say there is not a man but call himself a Canadian, but would like to see those men receive a deal that would at least give them a living wage. I am, Sir, etc., FAIR PLAY.

Laval

(By James D. White Associated Press Staff Writer)

Arch-collaborator Philippe Pétain executed on Monday as a traitor, headed the French Government in Vichy, France, in the fall of 1944, and he was unsuccessful in attempts to flee from justice. Acting under Nazi pressure, aged Marshal Philippe Pétain made Laval chief of the French Government in 1940, and he quickly turned to effect a number of Nazi-inspired anti-semitic and forced-labor laws.

In a broadcast to the French people Laval said peace in Europe could grow only out of friendship between France and Germany.

When the German government moved the collaborationist government to Paris, then to Belfort and finally made a feeble effort to organize a "Free French" government in Sigmaringen, in southern Germany. That falling because of Allied military success Laval went into flight, returning only to become a key defendant in war crimes trials. He was a central figure in the dramatic trial of Pétain in the fall of 1944, and he was condemned to death.

Laval returned to France in American military custody after surrendering at Linz, Austria, July 31, 1945. Virtually a Gestapo captive during the darkening days of his "voluntary" detention, Laval was a series of moves to escape custody, unsuccessfully sought sanctuary in Switzerland and Lichtenstein, finally fled to Spain. There he was interned by Gen. Franco and later evicted from the country. He arrived at Linz in a German plane.

Laval's first appearance before post-war officialdom of the country was led to a honeymoon with Nazi Germany when he was a member of the Petain trial Aug. 3, 1946. Called as a defence witness, he declared: "I am not here to defend myself, but to defend my country. I am on the side of the French people." He testified both he and Petain protested to the Germans about excesses against France during the war, and denied the oft-repeated charge that he was the "voluntary" collaborator who subsequently was condemned to death and later had his sentence commuted by Gen. de Gaulle to life imprisonment. Laval's own trial for treason, following Petain's by two months, wrote a singular chapter in the annals of French jurisprudence. In the five-day trial starting Oct. 4, 1945, Laval was twice evicted from the court for bitter exchanges with the judges and jurors, and, finally, on the third day, withdrew to his dungeon beneath the court-room and refused to return to the court. He reneged the proceeding clear his time writing a defense he apparently hoped would be used in a later trial, perhaps even after his death.

The trial was criticized almost unceasingly by French newspapers and the Bar Association, and as a result Laval recruited support in a retrial plea from some arch-enemies. One was former Premier Paul Reynaud, condemned and imprisoned by the Vichy regime. The jurors, however, condemned Laval to death, and he was hanged.

Far Eastern Situation

By DEWITT MacKENZIE (AP Foreign Affairs Analyst)

Gen. MacArthur's epitaph for broken Japan is so starkly realistic that it has a ring with a jolt: "This ends its military might and its military influence in international affairs. It no longer reckons with world power, either large or small."

Thus perishes an evil power which for almost 100 years increasingly dominated the orient until finally Greece impelled it to overreach itself in an effort to master and enslave not only its neighbors but to conquer great countries of the western world. Japan has been deprived of her ill-gotten gains and thrust back into her tiny island kingdom. She now lacks the resources to recover anything approaching her former position. She has been flung into the oblivion from which she emerged, almost within the memory of living men.

A vacuum has been created in the Orient with the disappearance of this dominant power. It is in the nature of things that something must rush in to fill that vacuum that is, some other people will in due course take its place. What will it be?

The probabilities are that for a considerable period the influence of the Big Three—Britain, the United States and Russia—will control the situation, pending the emergence of the new Asiatic power. China is a logical successor, but it will be long before she could assume the crown, for she is terribly weak in all categories excepting one—the magnificent spirit which enabled her to hang on in face of the Jap onslaught.

China has a monumental task ahead of her. She must repair the terrible ravages of her long war, she must rehabilitate and greatly expand her industries, and she still has to go through pioneering days in developing the far reaches of a country which is so vast as to be unwieldy.

China is a logical ultimate successor to the throne, but before we accept this as a finality we should stop and ask ourselves whether there is any other Asiatic power which in developing the far reaches of a country which is so vast as to be unwieldy. This is no time for prophesy as to what will come out of the Oriental melting-pot, but we shall indeed be short-sighted if we don't recognize that Russia may be the power which will rush into the vacuum created by Japan's elimination.

For Japan, while she has had to surrender her might, she still can achieve a useful and happy life. Gen. MacArthur says, the Japanese of the first time seen the free man's way of life in actual action, and it has stunned them into new thought and new ideas. A revolution or more properly a restoration of the old which will restore the dignity and freedom of the common man has begun.

The Dutch East Indies

By JAMES WHITE (Associated Press Staff Writer)

An important aspect of the present disturbance in the Dutch East Indies is the Dutch population of 70,000,000 people of this great empire are predominantly Mohammedan, and Japanese agitators are trying to stir the natural independence of the native population. This is apparent from the evidence with the war-paint of religious crusade.

The Japanese have tried this elsewhere in their attempt to incite the Chinese Mohammedan minority are well known. They failed, although they had more success in China to work on than there are in all Arab. Last week-end it became apparent that Japanese militarists in the East Indies were waiting for Allied commanders to accept their surrender—they are attempting to stir up a "holy war" before they finally lay down their arms. This is apparent from the fact that Gen. Soekarno, the Indonesian nationalist leader, who "declared war" at the week-end. This was a group of them stormed the Japanese gendarmerie headquarters at Bandung, for instance. So it seems probable that Indonesian independence will be proclaimed in the near future.

It is interesting to note that the "Indonesian people's army" directed its declaration of war against the Dutch, the Eurasians and the Americans. The Dutch and the mixed Dutch-Indonesian Eurasians are, of course, Christians. So are the Ambonese, a people who are the eastern part of the empire and who furnished most of the native troops which the Dutch used to control the predominantly Mohammedan population of the other islands. But there are Indonesian Mohammedans who have no use for the Japanese. A group of them stormed the Japanese gendarmerie headquarters at Bandung, for instance. So it seems probable that Indonesian independence will be proclaimed in the near future.

The charges against him included plotting against the country, being a prime collaborator with the Nazi government, and expressing a desire for a German victory in the war.

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