

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1939.

The South American Market

New Brunswick potato shippers are recommending to their provincial government that a marketing expert be sent to South America immediately to develop trade in both seed and table stock, in order to take advantage of what is regarded as "the greatest foreign market opportunity ever presented to New Brunswick exporters of potatoes."

Through their spokesman, the exporters pointed to federal government estimates that there was an excess of 2,500 carloads produced in New Brunswick this year over the yield of 1938. The same source revealed 7,500 more carloads of tubers in the five eastern Provinces over the 1938 figure. Hence the anxiety to increase exports to foreign markets, particularly South America. New Brunswick's largest competition in South American markets has been provided by Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Poland and Estonia. Because of the war conditions these countries now are not in a position to offer the serious competition which previously they had done. Should the New Brunswick Government not take steps along the lines requested, the shippers see "a steady decline" in N. B. potato prices.

Already this season some 600,000 bushels of N. B. seed potatoes have been consigned to Argentina and Cuba.

Island producers will wish New Brunswick growers and shippers every success in further developing the South American market. It will mean stabilizing prices and less competition for Canadian seed in the United States, which is the chief market for the P. E. Island product. Some years ago New Brunswick potato men took the initiative by developing substantial trade outlets in South America. Later they received assistance from the Dominion Government as well as the New Brunswick department of agriculture. If, as they now believe, there is prospect for further expansion, every encouragement should be given to ensure success of the scheme.

A Federal Expropriation Case

Federal expropriation proceedings, even by such vitally important departments as that of National Defense, differ considerably from the modus operandi of the Campbell Government in the notorious case of the National Park area in this province. For example, attention has recently been focused on an expenditure for a property in Vancouver, consisting of about six acres of land adjoining the Air Force property, and which has been taken over as an officers' mess. Criticism of the expenditure in the Financial Post elicits the following explanation from the Vancouver News-Herald:

The owners in question, Colonel and Mrs. Spencer, did not wish to sell but to retain the property as a permanent home. Expropriation proceedings were taken in April 1938, nearly two years ago. The Spencers refused to accept the offer made by the federal department, and instituted an action in the Exchequer Court, claiming approximately \$145,000 for the land. Mr. Justice Angers of the Exchequer Court of Canada came from Ottawa to try the case, which was heard in September, 1938. He reserved judgment for eleven months and rendered the same in August of this year allowing the Spencers \$94,440. The point made by the Vancouver paper is that the price "was fixed and determined in open court after the hearing of extensive evidence." By this means justice, it argues, was insured to the claimants, while the interests of the taxpayers were properly safeguarded.

Hands Across The Border

To the excellent series of pamphlets on world affairs issued by the Oxford University Press has been added one by an outstanding Canadian author and economist, Prof. Stephen Leacock. It is entitled "All Right, Mr. Roosevelt" and is redolent of Leacock humor and horse-sense. "The essential aim of this pamphlet," says the author, "is to stress the value, both to the British Empire and to all the world, of the continuance in despite of wars abroad, of that international peace and good will which now unites all of English-speaking North America. This happy situation has developed imperceptibly during more than a century of history. Time has turned the edge of the earlier animosities, and prepared a ground upon which the seeds of bygone discords have come up as flowers."

And again: "If it is the will and destiny of the people of the United States to join us in arms in defence of our heritage of freedom, or at least to assist our effort with material aid, we in Canada are glad to have it so. But if this may not be, we take up our burden of the war without complaint, crying out to no one, anxious only to help those overseas whose burden is even greater than ours."

Hence the title "All Right, Mr. Roosevelt." Canada and United States will continue to remain on friendly terms. "We leave pacts to Judas Iscariot who first trafficked in one. Our alliance has no more 'axis' that the axes of our lumber waggons. But it holds as deep in the soil as a New England elm. Tear it out with the stump-extractor of evil tongues and angered quarrels and you can never set it back."

Prof. Leacock turns back the pages of history to remind our American neighbors that George Washington was "a typical English country gentleman" and that their Revolution was really a family quarrel which ended in a

great triumph for British freedom." He also recalls the history of the Loyalists and other episodes which, whatever their origin, have resulted in closer mutual relations.

Canada's sound economic condition and prospects of vast industrial progress resulting from the present war are pointed out. "This, in spite of taxes, in spite of disruptions and dislocations, in spite of the inevitable but brief post-war slump, will make the material future of our country, as the Napoleonic War made yours. We can't help it. We're going to be just as modest about it as we can. But it's there. And, of course, if you people like to come in on it, why there's lots for all of us. But if not, it's all right anyway."

There is much more to the same effect, dealing with Canada's war and peace objectives in a manner likely to prove highly favorable from the publicity standpoint, particularly as Professor Leacock is well known and esteemed in the United States, where he holds a doctor's degree from the University of Chicago and honorary degrees from other American colleges.

EDITORIAL NOTES

All Souls Day.

Every Province in Canada was represented by their Attorney-General or Deputy at a conference in Ottawa last week, except ourselves. We were represented by some Mr. Wells.

The British Government has concluded a contract with certain Canadian interests to supply electrolytic copper for a year to the tune of \$46,200,000. The contract is subject to renewal.

The number of cars from U.S.A. entering St. Stephen up to last Monday was 22,664 as compared to 21,027 for the same period last year. This does not look as though the "fear of conscription" was restricting tourists.

Ontario Hotel Keepers Association have petitioned Transport Minister Howe to inaugurate a campaign to advise Americans that they will not be conscripted if they visit Canada. Now if "scalped" had been substituted for "conscripted" there would be some sense to the resolution.

The anti-war propaganda headquarters are centred in New York, from which ready-made resolutions and protest letters may be obtained for the asking, or even without asking, if some one indicates you are a likely subject to fall for such disloyalty.

German stamps were at a big discount in New York the other day, realizing a total of \$580, while Honduras air stamps were on the ascendant, realizing a total of \$1,750. One of the two mint copies of the 25-centavos on 10-cent dark blue air mail stamp of 1925 sold for \$5,300. The 1925 5-cent blue known as the "Red Honduras" because the "Aero Correo" overprinting is in red, went for \$3,900, and several other Honduras items brought more than \$500 each.

The homing instinct of marine birds remains one of the greatest unsolved problems of field biology, Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards told members of the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds. Without landmarks, birds as petrels and shearwaters unerringly find their nesting homes, which are sometimes located on islands hundreds of miles distant from their summer haunts, and science has yet to solve the manner in which they conduct their pilgrimages. Experiment has proved that many wild birds, such as the swallow, are superior homing birds to the carrier pigeon.

Mr. James Cormack, Canadian Trade Commissioner at Dublin, has informed the Department of Trade and Commerce that he is in receipt of an inquiry from the management of a large departmental store there as to the possibility of obtaining the following classes of goods from Canadian sources of supply: Wools, blankets, all-wool union suits and pyjamas, ladies' underwear, raincoats, calicos, sheetings, clerical black and other serges, men's and women's Wellington boots, cutlery and attache cases. Mr. Cormack states that these commodities have in the past been obtained from the United Kingdom, but on account of wartime conditions, they will not be available from that source in the usual quantities.

It seems fairly clear that the Allies are endeavoring to limit the conflict with Germany. Their aim appears to be to concentrate on the single issue of stopping Hitler. They are playing his own game with Stalin. They are playing his own game by mobilizing in full force on the German frontier, relieving pressure elsewhere and at the same time subjecting Germany to the "war of nerves." As it develops in action, the British objective seems not so much to gain allies as to extend the area of neutrality, and this tendency is very significant, because it implies a policy of limited war, of limited war aims and of German expansion limited by strengthening the forces in the path of the German drive. Certainly, we are witnessing a war, a great and crucial war, that, before it is over, may be unimaginably dreadful; yet sometimes it looks as if we are also witnessing the fade-out of the wars engaging vast forces of men.

A Federal order-in-council has been passed prohibiting exports of Canadian fertilizers except with approval of the Agriculture Minister. The order-in-council also gives the Provincial Departments of Agriculture the right to state analyses of mixed fertilizers that should be manufactured and sold within the respective province. The recommendation of the provinces will be accepted as the basis of registration for issuing permits under the Fertilizer Act for the duration of the war. The department also announced that, despite wartime demand, it appears quantities of chemicals used as insecticides and fungicides would be generally satisfactory during 1940 provided imports from Great Britain and the United States continued. The department statement said efforts are being made to promote Canadian production of such materials as copper sulphate and the arsenicals so Canada can be independent so far as these are concerned.

The European war by making the Americans look on to the defenses is giving impetus to the movement for a modern

NOTES BY THE WAY

For the past 30 years Fintry, a 2,500-acre estate on the western side of Lake Okanagan, has been one of the show places of British Columbia. It is a "little bit of Scotland" in a new land as it was intended to be by its owner, Captain James Cameron Dun-Walters, whose death in 1908 left it to his nephew, Scion of a wealthy Scottish family and the inheritor of the Glasgow Herald, Dun-Walters decided early in life to acquire a home for himself somewhere in the British dominions, and the Okanagan district was his ultimate choice. He brought out tenants from the family estate in Scotland to work on his property and set up a model establishment. It was a natural sequence to import from Scotland a herd of pure-bred Ayrshire cattle, which later became famous throughout the province. In due time the owner became known as the Laird of Fintry. This was the name of his family's home in Strathgairn, Scotland, and the name given to the Okanagan estate. When the Great War broke out he received a commission and he served in Egypt, Gallipoli, Italy and France. At his own expense he provided a soldiers' hospital in Cairo. Since the war he rarely went overseas. He liked the freedom of life in the Okanagan. Last year, at the age of 74, he turned over the magnificent property of Fintry, ranch, fruit lands, homes and stock, on which he had lavished immense sums of money, to the Fairbridge School scheme which trains British boys and girls for farm life in the overseas Empire. — From the Calgary Herald.

Detailed plans for M. Day

(M for Mobilization) whereby an American army of 9,500,000 soldiers could be raised without calling any men with dependents or with physical defects, has been completed by the United States Army General Staff, even including the draft legislation, or "Selective Service Act," which would put it into effect. Equally detailed plans for mobilizing industry also have been drawn up. Under the plan the first class would be called up between 21 and 30, of whom there are 12,000,000. Of these 4,800,000 would be accepted, and the others turned back because they were burdened with dependents or cursed with physical or mental infirmities. The second class would include the 31,000 youths between 18 and 21, of whom 2,100,000 would be called up. The third class, if it were needed, would call the men between 31 and 45. There are 13,000,000 of these, of whom 2,600,000 would be acceptable. This would give an army of 9,500,000 men before a single person with dependents or physical defects was conscripted, and by far the best, the greatest and finest army the world had ever known. — By Walter Davenport in Collier's Weekly.

Again the amateur weather prognosticators are making predictions for the winter. They are busy scouring the countryside for the usual natural signs of severe or mild winter. The usual signs are the number of birds in the air, the number of insects, the number of leaves on the trees, the number of flowers in the fields, the number of leaves on the trees, the number of flowers in the fields, the number of leaves on the trees, the number of flowers in the fields.

A subtle psychological study nowadays is how different people carry their gas-masks. Probably it is far more reliable and revealing than either palmistry or phrenology. Incidentally in civilian circles it is always a "gas-mask," whereas, perhaps to emphasize the gulf between civilians and the service people, it is invariably called a "respirator." The civilian beau sabreur carries his gas-mask with real panache, slung jauntily from one shoulder only. The methodical and slightly jittery citizen wears it round his neck, and hanging in front ready for instant use. The preoccupied and somewhat careless business man has it round his neck, but hanging behind out of the way. This type of civilian rarely has a special case for it, unless his wife buys him one. He carries on with the official cardboard-box container. Sartorial exquisites and maiden aunts do not sling their gas-masks. They carry them demurely in their hands. Moral cowards try to camouflage them as hand-cameras. — Ottawa Journal.

At the request of the Ontario Government a carload of 29 buffalo has been shipped to Burwash, Ont., by the National Parks Board of the Department of the Interior and Resources. The nucleus herd now being transferred to Ontario comes from Elk Island National Park in Alberta. Buffalo are not native to the Province of Ontario, and so their introduction to the Burwash area is an experiment in the acclimatization of this species of big game. Some years ago elk from Western Canada were transferred to Ontario game preserves, and the success which attended this venture has no doubt led the province to endeavor to add the buffalo to its list of big game animals. — Canadian Resources Bulletin.

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The Health League Of Canada

A NEW IRON LUNG

A Canadian boy was the first to use the new iron lung developed to work the chest muscles and lungs outside the body. He is Brian Hogan, aged six of Windsor, Ontario. The boy had been so badly stricken with Infantile Paralysis that he could not expand his lungs. Members of the Windsor Isolation Hospital knew that tests were being made in the Detroit Children's Hospital and borrowed the new device. Brian Hogan was in one of the ordinary iron lungs, which have the disadvantage of completely encasing the body and are huge and cumbersome. He was transferred to the new emergency lung.

This new device is constructed of rubber and transparent material. A perfect seal is insured by a pneumatic rubber ring and by a sponge-rubber flap which adheres tightly over to the clothed body. A backpack holds the lung in position and allows the patient to sit up in bed or even in a chair. Air is supplied to the emergency lung through an ordinary vacuum hose by an electrical driven pump. The air is compressed and decompressed about sixteen times a minute — the rate of normal breathing.

In this new lung, the Hogan lad within six weeks could breathe nearly an hour without the aid of apparatus of any kind. His arms and legs could be kept in splints so that they would not become hopelessly deformed. At the time this information was released it seemed likely that the new lung would enable the boy to recover partially and perhaps completely.

Landmarks Of The Atlantic

(Exchange) The use of echo sounding in charting ocean bottoms has provided, in the last ten years, more facts about the topography of the sea floor than had been obtained before in the entire history of the geographical sciences. The growth of experiments in recording graphically the profile of the ocean floor has been improvement in navigation by means of position-fixing based on radio waves. The marine mountains and valleys, hills and vales hundreds of fathoms beneath the surface of the sea. In the Geographical Review for October, Paul A. Smith of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey summarizes a few of the more interesting facts about the Atlantic continental shelf. The use of radio acoustics ranging, as developed by the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and the tautwire apparatus of the British Admiralty Hydrographic Office have both been used in charting the shelf that lies along the coast of the United States for sixty to 125 miles. "So flat is the shelf throughout the 600 miles of the surveyed area between Cape Hatteras and the Atlantic coast of the George Bank," writes Mr. Smith, "that with few local exceptions, such as the great sand waves of Nantucket Shoals, sixty feet high in places, an automobile could probably be driven over any part of its surface." Just beyond the edge of this vast undersea plain the continental slope drops away steeply. In some places it is "deeply and thoroughly dissected," in the geographer's phrase, and large areas of this precipitous and very rough terrain have been carefully studied.

The Poet's Corner

THE NILE It flows through old hush'd Egypt and its sands, and mightily thrumming Like some great mighty thrumming (threading a dream); And times and things, as in that vision seem Keeping along it their eternal Caves, pillars, pyramids, the shepherd-bands, That roam through the young world, the glory extreme Of high Sesostris, and that southern beam. The laughing queen that caught the world's great hands. Then comes a mightier silence, stern and strong, As a world left empty of its throng. And the void weighs on us; and then we wake, And hear the fruitful stream lapping along 'Twixt villages and think how we shall take Our own chain journey on for human sake. — Leigh Hunt.

A Fox In The Docks

(P. L. A. Monthly, London) The bustle of shipping and loading and discharging, in the docks of the Port of London does not seem to deter wild life. Pike, roach, bream and ubiquitous eel flourish in the Junction Dock, Millwall Docks; making full allowance for the deception apparently practiced by all fish, there appears to be evidence of fish up to four pounds in weight in these docks. At the east end of Rum Bay, a hawk has her nest, and ducks and swans are also to be found. Recently the King's Swamster removed two swans from the West India Docks; three days later they were back again. Their nest was made of old rope and straw, neatly lined with pieces of timber. Almost as legendary as Aescop's Reynard is the fox which has made his home in these docks for some years. It is conjectured that his debut as a docker was made highway from the United States through western Canada to Alaska and the Yukon. Although tourists undoubtedly would account for most of the travel over the proposed motor route, it would have immeasurable defence value for both the United States and Canada, neither of which keeps large military forces in northern outposts. — Des Moines Tribune.

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.

LADY'S ASTOR'S DREAM

Sir:—The Press has been giving Lady Astor's recent statements in the British House of Commons much publicity. Lady Astor has been making a plea, for some economic protection for the married women in the air raid emergency. This of course raises the age-old question of "minors, juveniles, idiots" which is the status of married women under British law! Some years ago a supposed great legal light was discussing this question, and was asked, "What is the position of the unmarried woman, if the mothers of the race are so low in the scale of intelligence?" He dismissed the subject with a wave of his hand, and "Oh, they haven't any! Spinners take care..." Now, we in Canada, are not bothered with air raids at the moment, but we have other fields of inactivity. How many capable women sit idle and send public hoards? How many women are interested enough to inquire what men in positions of trust are doing with their money and indirectly their lives? Investigation in other places has generally proven, that the affairs of institutions are left in the hands of little dictators and his/her opinion settles the fate of the majority, without question. Equal representation is necessary if a modicum of justice is to be established.

We cannot expect peace and goodwill, while persons and institutions neglect to put their own house in order. I am Sir, etc. A CAROLYN BAYFIELD Charlottetown, Nov. 1, 1939

"SEED POTATO PRICES"

Sir—Your correspondent—"Victim"—pretends to think that the potato discussion has no connection with war prices, but fails to grasp the fact that war or no war, profiteering in the potato and more so under distress of war conditions. Some seasons in consistency might help him. He asks me to "work out a profit on 20c a bushel" (which is the price of seed potatoes) and a modicum of this virtue, he would try to demonstrate how to work out a profit to the dealer whom he calls "middleman" and compels to sell "below" the price he pays for them. (Fall of 1938.) He is unfortunate in his comparisons. He cites a Nova Scotia buyer paying 60c while local trade is paying 55c. This may be a figure of his fertile brain; it might even be a fact, that a private retailer, to save overhead expenses, purchases his winter supply under temporary local competition, at a slight advance. This sometimes happens, but is no gauge of market values, I have known of private merchants, who know their market, to pay (or rather to credit) such with a very stiff price, and still be ahead of the deal. He pays no cash, collects small N. S. or outside buyers are obliged to make his schooner load, or sacrifice his charter costs.

"Victim" also contends that—"During the winter the Association did not pay over 90c when in Nova Scotia, at one time, they were willing to pay 90c to \$1.00, to ship to America." He ignores the fact that the Potato Growers' Association had to transport their potatoes to Halifax, in refrigerated cars, at winter freight rates, pay storage, and transfer costs, insurance, demurrage etc., or store here till spring, paying insurance, heat in warehouses, interest at the banks and the loss by shrinkage while the Halifax buyer has only to load from farmers truck to steamers hold, and only to pay freight at lower rates, to American destination.

He signs himself—"Victim." Victim of what? Surely one so brilliant in foresight as he pretends to be, would never sign a contract to sell 50c potatoes at 45c. There was no law, unless the law of necessity, compelling him to it. Would so acute a business critic, contract to sell at 45c when others were paying or offering 53c? Why not come out in the open, lay bare the whole truth, via a goods wagon from some country district. His share is shared by a mongrel, and the pair usually make the round of the quays on Saturday afternoons and Sundays when the docks are idle. Ducklings, cygnets and garbage and an occasional unfortunate dock cat are their principal diet.

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The 2 MACS

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The Government grades of Canadian Apples are: "No. 1" includes sound, hand-picked apples of good colour for the variety, free from insect pests and practically free from disease and minor blemishes. The apples are sized according to variety. "DOMESTIC" includes sound, hand-picked apples of fair colour for the variety and reasonably free from disease and other injury. The apples are sized according to variety.

and straighten out the tangled web that envelops him? He imagines it criminal for merchants to protest against government subsidies subsidizing feeds, to sell a way below costs, undermining legitimate business, as subsidies on imported goods always do. It is a type of charity which should always be outlawed, except in dearth of supplies and emergency of famine. He asks did I then protest against high prices? There were no high prices to protest against. The merchants sold at the ruling market value. The only ground for protest was that of paying from the "peoples chest" a part of that price, to benefit those who were not in want at the cost of undermining legitimate merchandising. Another feature which might interest "Victim" is the precaution of private merchants, who know their man, declining to contract or sell fertilizer with uncertain prospect of payment. The Potato Growers Association who are out to help the growers are often more generous in credits, and those who get these benefits should not be ungrateful. If potatoes now were only worth 40c on open markets, would he complain as he is now doing, or in mainly sympathy would he only accept the 40c, refusing the 45c contract price. Like Shylock, depend upon it, he would have his pound of flesh, no matter whom he burdened with the loss. I am, Sir, etc. ECONOMIST.

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The Boys of The Old Brigade WERE MARCHING YESTERDAY — 1914. TODAY THE YOUNGSTERS OF THE NEW BRIGADE ARE MARCHING AND AGAINST THE SAME FOE. AS IN 1914 OUR TOBACCO MOVES WITH EVERY ISLAND UNIT OR REGIMENT.

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