

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 1942.

Speech From Throne

The Speech from the Throne with which His Honour the Lieutenant Governor opened the Legislature yesterday indicates at least two measures of importance to be presented. One is a Bill to implement the provisions of the Dominion-Provincial arrangement whereby the Provinces surrender for the duration of the war their right to impose income taxes and corporation taxes. In return for this concession they receive certain compensatory payments. There is unlikely to be any controversy over the principle involved in this legislation, which is to aid the Dominion Government in raising the revenues necessary for wartime expenditure. The details of the agreement, however, are and should be a matter for the most careful consideration and discussion.

The House will also be asked to consider measures designed to provide a more adequate remuneration for members of the teaching profession and the inadequacy of the salaries paid are matters about which there can be no dispute. Here again the discussion will be concerned not with the principle involved, but with the details. It may be pointed out, however, that even the present scale of remuneration is higher than it would otherwise have been, but for the stand taken by the MacMillan Government in 1933. At that time the Liberal Opposition moved to reduce the salaries of all teachers and government employees receiving \$500 or more per year. This would have affected 336 teachers throughout the Province. The measure referred to in yesterday's Speech from the Throne represents a complete right-about-face from the Liberal attitude of nine years ago.

The Speech also requests the careful consideration by members "of all policies designed for the assistance of agriculture and fishing, and for the further adaptation of agricultural production to the requirements of our national wartime economy." This is highly important, if it means that concrete measures are to be presented. One thing very necessary in this connection is closer cooperation between the federal and provincial agricultural departments, and a better understanding at Ottawa of the connection between our problems of production and transportation. This brings us to the reference in the Speech to the loss of the S. S. Charlottetown. The Government "has urged upon the Government of Canada the necessity of replacing the lost ferry by an efficient steamer at the earliest possible date, and of making in the meantime effective provision for the improvement of the present ferry steamer and for providing suitable stand-by facilities." Reading on in the expectation of finding what the Government of Canada's reply has been to these solicitations, one is disappointed. The Speech is not only silent on this point, but it gives no inkling of what further effort, if any, the Campbell Government intends making in this important matter.

The Plutocrat In Politics

Mr. Harold Nicolson, M. P., the distinguished diplomat, member of the British Parliament, and journalist has this to say about degeneracy in public life which may well be noted and digested nearer home:

"A second study in political degeneration which I have read this week is Henry Torres's flaming indictment of Pierre Laval. Here again we have an illustration of what happens when the ostensible system of a country bears no practical relation to the actual centres of power. In appearance the French Republic was still the resolute daughter of the principles of 1789, equipped with a perfect democratic system. In practice, the Chambers, the civil service and even the judiciary were being increasingly subjected to the pressure of a tiny plutocratic gang. Adventurers such as Pierre Laval were able by persistence and cunning to ingratiate themselves with the magnates of big business and to obtain control of a large section of the national and provincial Press. The whole of French political life was rapidly assuming the semblance of a gambling syndicate; bribery and blackmail spread their poisons through the body politic; and the public, the civil service and the army were beginning to lose all confidence in the elected representatives of the people. The forms were preserved; but the spirit of the French Republic was dying a rich and dreadful death. I once asked a French deputy whether Laval and Bonnet were as crooked as they looked. 'Laval, yes,' he answered. 'As for Bonnet that would evidently be impossible.' What appalled the foreign observer of Pierre Laval was his deliberate superficiality of mind; he flicked over the surface of subjects with the skill and rapidity of a waterbeetle; it was not merely that he was ignorant, it was that he regarded knowledge as his enemy.

"It is encouraging to feel that these diseases to which old civilizations are prone need not be mortal diseases. China has been born again, and it may well be our privilege, as Mr. Collis suggests,

to assist in her regeneration. The mistakes which China made can prove a warning to us; the ills which we did her call for recompense. And Pierre Laval, the peasant who was so unlike a peasant, the Frenchman who was so unworthy of France, may also serve as a salutary example, and may also prove but a symptom of a transitory illness. When I think of that brown, vivacious man with his horrible white tie, I feel sickened that such esurient flippancy should have affected the destinies of his own country and of Europe. But it is a comfort to reflect that forty-two million Frenchmen feel the same."

EDITORIAL NOTES

A beginning has been duly made, "without the trimmings," by our local parliament.

Senator Rhodes was a good friend of this Province when Finance Minister.

Where would we be, or what would we do, without the airplane service in times of emergency?

No military display yesterday; even the West Kent Band is no longer heard in the land. To hear military strains one must tune in on the radio.

Evidently Prime Minister Mackenzie King is "reforming" the Senate by a policy of attrition-laissez faire, of course, letting death do his work.

Parliament is to have an Easter recess of three weeks, from March 27 to April 20. A week after the legislators return the people here will be marking their plebiscite ballots. The lengthy Easter holiday is to give the members a chance to convince their constituents of the urgent need of securing a resounding affirmative majority on the vote, so that the last vestige of reason for hesitating to take a resolute step will be removed from the King administration.

Saint Patrick, (A. D. 387-461) Patron Saint of Ireland, born this date in Dumbarton, Scotland, carried off to Ireland by pirates about 405, escaped after six years and fled to Lerins in Gaul where he formed the idea of evangelizing Ireland; in 432 he was consecrated and returned to the land of his former slavery, where he discovered Christianity had already some footing; he preached vigorously and lived consecratedly, and to him the real conversion of Ireland is due.

A determined woman can accomplish much. The Government of Nova Scotia took away the license of the Ajax Club Halifax on the complaint of Fort Massey Church, of which Premier MacMillan is a member. This roused the righteous indignation of the President Mrs. Jane Evelyn McEuen who went on the war path on behalf of the thousands of sailors who frequent the club in the course of a year. Result, a compromise proposed, and in addition the Navy League announced they will erect a \$200,000 Club which also will be licensed.

In the opinion of the Governor-General books are as important as butter at the present time. Addressing the annual dinner of the Canadian Authors Association he said "something was required to ease the wearisome strain under which we are living," and it was a relief to snatch a short hour in reading some book which brought encouragement and hope, and turned the mind from the sordid affairs of today into the brighter, calmer realms of the morrow. "I humbly submit that books are precious things and one never can have too much from the pen of a good author." "According to a friend of mine, no more acceptable gift than a book, except perhaps two pounds of butter, can be sent to friends in England, where the printing of books has in some measure been curtailed."

It is reported from London that Britain has given up one of the mainstays of its meals—white bread—with the jest that a dark loaf is better than none at all. Lord Woolton, Food Minister, told the House of Lords that Britain's war need for shipping space necessitated extensive substitution of a national whole meal for white flour. Lord Woolton said that the move did not indicate that stocks are running low. On the contrary, he said the whole wheat will be used to get the fullest benefit from a large supply on hand. The full effects of the new order will not be felt until April 20 when neither bakers nor manufacturers will be permitted to make anything of all white flour, or use more than 25 per cent of white flour in any products. While the retailer has his present supply of white flour, housewives may buy it. In another phase of the trend toward greater self-denial in living standards, consumers have been required recently to give up more food coupons for canned goods, chiefly from the United States.

A drastic preventative for Fifth Columnists! Dr. Anna Strong, American author and correspondent, who spent 20 years in Russia told a meeting in Montreal that the reason why there were no Fifth Columnists in Russia was that Stalin took the precaution of shooting them in advance. She also credited the success of the Russians to preparedness. "Russia has long been described as a totalitarian state and Stalin has usually been classed between Hitler and Mussolini," the speaker told the large audience. "We have been told that the Russian people were but slaves and machines but I don't think that the initiative and courage shown by the civilian population in the present war is born or instilled by slavery. Another reason for the successful defence which the Russians have put up is the fact that they foresaw the present conflict and made plans for it. They concentrated their efforts on the building up of heavy industry and forgot their personal wants and needs." She said that many people criticized the "treason trials" held in Moscow during the past several years but pointed out that as a result of these trials Russia was the only country which Hitler invaded in which he had not been able to find fifth columnists.

NOTES BY THE WAY

What is the use, then, of being diplomatically polite in asking Vichy for an explanation of British charges that German forces in Libya have been getting supplies from or through French territory? Any explanation will be unsatisfactory, as indeed, the State Department says Vichy's first one is. Why wait for more? Why temporize longer? We've tried patience, cajolery, appeasement, even the bribe of relief.... These men, now unfortunately constituting the real Government of France, mean no good to the United States. Why keep up the fiction then that France will remain neutral, or that we, by being nice, can keep her so? She has taken sides, as Indo-China's enormous help to Japan abundantly proves. North Africa is important to our defence, and the time for making sure that it will contribute to our defence is short. — The Providence Journal.

Sir:—Your excellent illustration of the nation's newly acquired Rembrandt was good to see. So good that one longs to see the original, which will now I suppose be stored in a safe place after the war. Because London's face is scarred and bruised these days we need more than ever to see such things. Like many another hungry man's aesthetic refreshment, I would welcome the opportunity of seeing a few of the hundreds of the nation's masterpieces stored in a safe place. Would the trustees of the National Gallery consider whether it were not wise and well to risk one picture for exhibition each week? Arrangements could be made to transfer it quickly to a strong room in case of an alert. Music-lovers are not denied their reserved seats for the opera, are they? The Rembrandts are a time when such beauty is most potent for good. I know the risk but I believe it would be worth it. — Letter in London Times.

Lord Woolton's decision to allocate certain quantities of powdered milk (but only the damaged variety, "unfit for human consumption") to cats "engaged on work of national importance" is not, by many centuries, the first recognition of the cat's importance in the body politic. As far back as A. D. 948 Howel the Good, Prince of Wales, enacted "that any person killing or stealing the cat guarding the Prince's granary would, on conviction, be liable to lose his flocks and lamb." The price of a kitten in those days was fixed at a penny; but after killing its first mouse the cat's value rose to two-pence or four-pence. As for the reign of Richard the Second, domestic cats were still on the reserved list, and heavy penalties were threatened for anyone bringing about their destruction. In modern times the cat has become increasingly official. As an example, the Germans in 1937 appointed a corps of twenty-four cats to deal with rats in Berlin's Alexanderplatz Central Market. Their salary was paid in milk and beef, and their quarters probably by now they have learned to "huddle" and to perform the goose-step and maybe to distinguish between the Jewish and the Aryan rats. It is even possible that they have their own little Gestapo.

The Japs, they say, are superstitious people who, in some parts of Ireland, take the baying of dogs by night as a sign of disaster or death to come. And that Anderson County, Texas, need not worry about air raids. Indeed, the rest of us should take a tip from civilian defence officials who, instead of the usual sirens, have lined up all the hound-dogs and deployed them strategically over an area 40 miles wide and 20 miles long. Promptly at 8.21 the county sheriff, using a self a blacksmith's hammer and whanged the old plow blade that hangs in the courthouse square across a fire bell. The "aler" was picked up at once by hound dog No. 1, stationed a quarter-mile away. Other dogs, 2,375 of them, in fact, usually clumped together in farms or so far apart that their howls would carry, had been planted a quarter-mile apart, up and down the country since the war began, so that no sound or message could be clear unless the call. They say that by 9.30, with every hound going good, folks in Dallas, a hundred miles away, were "listening for cover." — From the Chicago Sun.

Figures based on reliable reports from Vienna, point to as high a percentage of the population out of every hundred of the people, now being now strongly anti-Nazi. These include not only manual workers, but the middle-class — once loyal to the Nazi cause. The Viennese, through their hard times following the last war, never lost their love of a joke. An asset which helps them to bear their yet greater hardships of today. Their latest jest is the story of a maid who applied for a position in a household and stated that she must have sixty marks a month. The prospective employer objected that the sum was extortionate. The current rate of pay was only forty marks. 'Yes,' came the reply, 'but I have to charge ten marks extra for keeping silent about your "black-market" purchases; and another ten marks for keeping quiet about your listening to the BBC. To which the mistress of the house replied the family lived on its legitimate rations and listened only to Nazi broadcasts. In that case,' the maid answered, 'I am certainly not going to work in a house where the people are both hungry and stupid.' And she flounced out. — BBC London.

Sir:—Like many another trite saying, the expression, "We're a Jock Tamson's bairns" originated in Fife. John Thomson, a farmer, bairn at Cults (the birthplace of Sir David Wilkie), was blessed with a large family. Mrs. Thomson being too busy with other duties, the Saturday-night job of bathing the weans fell to her husband. Jock's modus operandi was to place a well filled tub on the kitchen floor, and to scrub each child in turn. The little fellows, after being dried, were heaved into the bed with box words: "Find a place for yerself." Hence the saying: "We'll find a place for ourselves." Like Jock Tamson's bairns, Letter in Edinburgh Scotsman.

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.

DR. GRANT'S SUGGESTION

Sir,—Should it be found impossible to begin the construction of a new car ferry to replace the lost "Charlottetown" until after the war is over, the Federal Government might be asked to construct this coming summer at Cape Tormentine a frost-proof potato shed large enough to store all surplus P. E. I. potatoes next fall, so that they could be shipped by rail at suitable times during the winter. As lumber is plentiful in New Brunswick, such a building could be constructed at a reasonable cost and, at any rate, there should be no harm in inviting the views of those interested in the potato problem.

I am, Sir, etc., THOS. V. GRANT, Member for King's.

Ottawa, Ont., March 12, 1942.

SALVAGING WORN SOCKS

Sir,—Replying to a letter from "An Interested Knitter" which appeared in Monday's paper, I would like to say that the matter of salvaging worn socks has been gone into both here and in the other provinces of Canada. The chairmen of the Red Cross work committees have contacted the officers commanding the different sections of the armed forces and asked them to turn any worn hand-knitted socks in to the Red Cross for re-footing or to be used in making afghans or blankets. Most of the socks made by the Red Cross are shipped overseas for the troops and undoubtedly the worn socks are made use of as nothing is wasted in England. I am, Sir, etc., D. FOSTER, (Mrs. E. A. Foster), Chairman, Women's War Work Committee.

Prince Edward Island Division, Canadian Red Cross Society.

Sweden Fears Attack

(Exchange) From the neutral centre of Berne Switzerland, a German attack on Sweden is suggested as the next sensational development of Hitler's offensive strategy. The reason or pretext for this contemplated new offensive is the growing conviction in German military quarters that the Allies are about to establish a second front in Nazi-occupied Norway. German reports reaching Switzerland say military authorities at Berlin have decided that heroic measures are necessary to meet this new Allied drive. It is pointed out in these reports that Britain is preparing to respond to Stalin's appeal for a second front; that facilities for communication, transport and travel in Norway are meagre; that Finland does not offer a safe corridor for Nazi troops; and that the only way to meet the

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A Thought A Day For A People At War

"We will have a period ahead of us which will be troublesome, difficult and perhaps dark at times. But we have no doubt as to the ultimate outcome." — Mayor La Guardia.

impending British thrust is to dispatch a German expeditionary force through Sweden.

That the Swedes are being subjected to a "war of nerves" is indicated by the sensational stories carried by Stockholm papers. The Exchange Telegraph reports that Sweden has completed certain steps necessary to ensure the country's defence, and calls for still further action to garrison the kingdom against any possible invasion. Sources of information found reliable in the past say that twelve divisions of well-equipped but raw troops have been massed at strategic points along the southern coastline of the Baltic. Another nine divisions of well-trained Nazi assault troops, said to include several formations of paratroopers, are reported to be massed on Zealand Island in the neighborhood of the Danish capital. These forces have been mobilized within the last few days. It would not be at all surprising if these forecasts prove prophetic. Sweden is the one important state in northern continental Europe which has not fallen under Nazi domination. There is no question that the neutrality of Sweden would prove an embarrassment to Hitler if one of the expected Allied offensives during the coming summer should be launched by way of Norway. Hitler claims to regard Sweden as a buffer state which might yet be utilized to complete a "military encirclement" of Germany. It would not be surprising if he singled it out as the next of his many "defensive" conquests.

INDIA'S STAKE IN WAR

CALCUTTA—(CP)—Like the rest of the British Commonwealth of Nations India will lose all if the war is not won by Britain and her allies warned Sir Robert Reid, governor of Assam, addressing a war committee.

INK STAINS

The ink bottle tips over. Ink blots on the rug. But don't despair! It's probably not fatal. Speed, however is vital. Blot up as much of the ink as possible with thick blotting paper or an absorbent kind of soft cloth. But take care that in your haste you don't spread the stain. Then wash with warm water. If that doesn't do the trick entirely and the stain has become watered, better call in a reliable professional cleaner, for he should understand thoroughly types of stains, fabrics and dyes, and what cleaning agent is best for each.

"TIRED" ALL THE TIME

She felt miserable—draggy—low in vitality—lower in spirits. She hadn't thought of her kidneys until a friend suggested Dodd's Kidney Pills. At once she took Dodd's. The "washed out" feeling was soon replaced by clear headed energy and restful sleep. Headache, backache, lassitude and other signs of faulty kidneys disappeared. Dodd's Kidney Pills

Is now a shaken shadow intolerable. Of ultimate things unuttered the frail screen. Mark me: how still I am! But should there dart One thought through thy soul the soft supplest of that winged Peace which tulle the breath of sighs—Then shalt thou see me smile, and thy heart soar.

Thy heart, to mine ambush at thy heart, Sleepless with cold commemorative eyes. —Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

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Have You The Cash To Pay Your Income Tax Due March 31st?

This very month your income tax is due. Are you ready with the cash necessary for the required payment?

No doubt you have saved to perform your tax-paying duty but still may need more cash.

Whether the amount you are short be large or small, see today the manager of your nearest branch who will be glad to discuss your requirements.

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BEER IN RHODESIA

BULAWAYO—(CP)—Representatives of the Rhodesian government are conferring with tempers and other organizations on the allegation that consumption of beer is increasing alarmingly and having a bad influence on the life.

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