

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

Was It A Hoax?

Discussing the unfortunately abortive attempt at Hitler's liquidation, Lord Vansittart inclines to the theory that the whole thing was Nazi propaganda stage stuff. In an article written for the British United Press, Vansittart puts forward three possible explanations of the episode and its repercussions:

- 1. The attempt to kill Hitler and his top Nazi-minded generals and admirals may have been genuine — a bona fide effort on the part of the conservative generals to get rid of Hitler and sue for peace with the Allies.
2. What information is available also raises a strong possibility that the attempt to assassinate Hitler was staged like other famous hoaxes in Nazi Germany history. It would give Hitler a chance to proclaim his indispensability to Germany and give ruthless Heinrich Himmler a stranglehold on the home front.
3. There is a possibility that the "assassination" was staged to test reaction in Allied countries. It requires an imagination capable of feeding on wild fantasy to accept thesis 2 or 3. Goebbels' propaganda has admittedly become more stupid than usual with the knowledge that Germany's doom is advancing with portentous strides, but it is difficult to picture such a Reich-rocketing story being invented by Berlin as a feeler of Allied sentiment, at a time when the problem of the hour is to keep the Nazi home front from falling to pieces from nervous prostration. The Nazi bosses may be curious to know what the Allied reaction would be to a real or threatened revolution in Germany, but it would be stark insanity to try to gratify such curiosity by a crack-brain expedient which would at the same time upset and divide the German people more than anything else that could be conceived. Any hypothesis that the attack on Hitler's life was a hoax, requires to be based on more sheer nonsense than the average mind can comfortably absorb.

A Confused Picture

One effect of the invasion is to lift the veil which has hidden from us the ordinary life of occupied France, and very interesting the first glimpse of the picture ought to be, writes Janus in the Spectator. But so far it is a very confused picture, made up in part of flabby contradictory evidence. The Daily Mail on Wednesday collected reports from several correspondents. The first, sufficiently arresting, told of two French girls, wives of German soldiers, who sniped from windows in a village at Allied soldiers, killing five of them before they were shot themselves. Another correspondent described the local population in the area he visited as variously enthusiastic, indifferent or sullenly hostile. Another story, no doubt more typical, was of eager and valuable collaboration. But the strangest contradiction is between a Reuter's correspondent's stories of the comfort and even luxury he found in some Norman villages, with houses amply stocked with thick tweed suits, silk dresses, thick towels, cosmetics and abundance of excellent food — between that and the report of a French correspondent who, cabling to France, depicted the lot of the inhabitants in very different terms. They had got accustomed, he said, to their vie lente et dure, and he mentioned that, as measure of it, he had heard repeated again and again the exclamation, "Just think of it, monsieur, fifty grammes of butter (less than 2 oz.) a month—in Normandy of all places." This must be the true picture. The luxury houses sound German.

"Silence," the Watchword

A warning to the people of Belgium to maintain complete silence on the subject of the resistance movement, has been broadcast from London by Hubert Pierlot, the Belgian Prime Minister. The Allied Supreme Command, he said, had paid tribute to the Belgian forces of resistance for their work behind the German lines and for the disorganization of communications used by the enemy in transporting men and munitions. This action contributed to the Allied successes in Normandy. To those who asked how they could help, the Belgian government replied that they could and should help the resistance forces by respecting their essential secrecy. Everyone should behave as if he knew nothing. Mr. Pierlot added, "I labor this point because there has been too much talking. Those who are responsible for the fight in Belgium are in imminent danger. I demanded that your watchword be, Silence! The Allied Command attaches the greatest importance to the watchword being punctiliously obeyed."

C. C. F. Technique

Through indifference and, it must be said, in many instances through incompetence the two old political parties have been chiefly responsible for the new and quickening life which, in recent months, has been surging through the veins and arteries of the C. C. F. political body. This renewed strength is largely due to a political technique which its worst enemy cannot accuse the C. C. F. of having copied from the older parties. From its very inception the C. C. F. has concentrated upon the younger generation. It has encouraged the youth of Canada in the belief that it is possible with only slight physical effort to make this country an-

other Garden of Eden as before the Fall. All that is necessary is to vote C.C.F. or, in other words, to fall down and worship Mr. Coldwell. It appeals, too, to the disgruntled. There are thousands of people who, by the peculiarity of their disposition, are always "agin the Government". To those, the call of the C. C. F. has a most fascinating appeal.

On the other hand, it is well to remember that this outward appeal of the C. C. F. for economic justice, for freedom of speech, and for many other rights of the common man, does not appear to be part of its own practice wherever it has the power.

Mr. Lenderyon of Lethbridge, beaten and battered by burly C. C. F. thugs, did not receive much of this freedom of opinion which the C. C. F. would have us believe it is so desirous of maintaining. It is well if we give some thought to such incidents.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Another successful race day has come and gone, bringing us within three weeks of Charlottetown's big events.

The Scotia Steam Ferry is doing good work at Borden-Tormentine crossing, but it is questionable if it can handle satisfactorily the big traffic of next month.

When two Bloc Populaire M. P.'s from Quebec, Dr. Pierre Gauthier and Mr. Edward Lacroix resign in order to enter the contest for the Provincial Legislature, they must consider the party's prospects pretty good. As M. P.'s they are each entitled to \$4,000 per annum, and railway travelling expenses; as M. L. A.'s they are allowed \$3,000 plus \$300 travelling expenses.

A delegation from the Russian Orthodox Church, probably consisting of three high members of the church, is leaving for Britain "in the near future" to return the visit of the Archbishop of York last year. Alexei, the incumbent patriarch of Russia, said: "We are confident that this visit will serve to strengthen still further the friendly and fraternal relations between the two countries."

The peak of war production would be over before October 1, and before the end of the year there would be a goodly quantity of consumer goods in the market, it was predicted to retailers attending the Chicago Midsummer furniture mart. Demand for appliances would run into the millions, speakers agreed. Thomas F. Kelly of the Hoover Company (a former Canadian) reported surveys showing as high as 4,000,000 prospects for vacuum cleaners.

A good deal of indignation is being expressed over the far from laudatory description of our province in a Toronto newspaper, written by a sport columnist. The worst feature is that the visiting sport writer quotes local individuals as his authority to give an indication of verisimilitude to what he says. It would appear to be up to our Tourist and Publicity Bureau to take both the writer and his newspaper to task. At the same time this should be a lesson to Islanders to beware of slick strangers bringing gifts of so-called free publicity.

New records for Australia, both for the highest price and the highest average for Beef Shorthorn bulls, were established at the stud beef cattle sales in Sydney. For Coonong Napoleon, winner of the junior championship at the show, C. P. Fairbairn & Co., of Woomarama, paid \$10,000 after bidding that started at \$2,500. The senior champion bull, bred by D. R. McCaughey, of Coonong Stud, sold in 1942 to E. L. Killen, of Pine Park, used in the Antrim Stud, and brought back to the Cattle Show, where he won the senior championship, was re-purchased at auction by his breeder for \$8,500. The entire team of eight Coonong bulls realized \$31,607.50, averaging \$3,825.85.

Hilaire Belloc, poet, historian, novelist, journalist, traveller and politician, born this date, 1870; of French descent, though his mother was English and his wife Irish-American; educated at Edgheaston Oratory School and Oxford University; keen student of military matters he prophesied before Great War I that the Germans would invade France by way of Belgium; was Liberal Member of Parliament for South Salford for four years; editor of "G. K.'s Weekly" since 1936; his chief publications include "Verses and Sonnets", "The Path to Rome", "The Crusade", "Monarchy", "The Silence of the Sea", "The Last Rally", "Elizabethan Commentary". "When I am dead, I hope it may be said: His sins were scarlet, but his books were read."

Sumner Welles says in his new book that the free exchange of news among all the peoples of the earth is one of the essentials for maintaining the world organized for peace. Welles takes up the theme many times in his book. At one point he tells of his arrival in Germany in 1940 on a special mission for President Roosevelt and his discovery of the extent to which the German press was controlled. "I remember that on the first page of the very first paper I picked up," he says, "were three items, written with ponderous solemnity, which purported to describe events alleged to have taken place recently in the United States." Welles says this gave him a new concept of the "tremendous power" which complete control of the sources of information gives to a government. "Under those conditions," he writes, "and at a time when listening to a foreign radio broadcast was a capital offence, punishment for which was reported in the very newspaper I was then reading, how was it conceivable that the people of Germany could ever move except as their masters instructed them? From that moment, I have been convinced that when this war is over, the peoples of the earth must never again permit a situation to arise where any people shall be deprived of their inherent right to know the truth."

Notes By The Way

Two more German Generals have been captured by the Russians. They are as good as Rommel, on the run.—St. Catharines Standard.

According to an American writer the "national anthem" of Scotland is "The Campbells Are Coming." And all the time we thought it was "Just a Wee Deoch 'n' Dorus."—Windsor Star.

If elected, Thomas E. Dewey will be the first mustached President in 32 years. William Howard Taft wore a mustache. But the country had a close shave in 1915 when Charles Evan Hughes nearly shaved the nation.—Buffalo Courier-Express.

Herr von Ribbentrop still owes a London dentist for work done on his teeth before the war. A time is coming, however, when the Nazis will have to pay; and Germany's foreign minister can count himself in with the rest of the gangsters.—Hamilton Spectator.

It may be too much to expect that the term "charwoman" will be replaced by any such graceful title as "minor manipulative tradeswoman." Indeed, that would be ridiculous. But it should be possible to coin a word free of snobbish implications and more in keeping with the dignity of honest and indispensable toil.—Brantford Expositor.

Only two per cent of men discharged from Australia's fighting services are finding it difficult to adjust themselves to civilian life. One man out of every 50, however, he found one in which he could stick. Manpower officers say that the war has changed many outlooks. City men want jobs in the country and out-of-doors workers want city jobs. Disabled men are encouraged to keep trying to get comfortably placed.—Fredericton Gleaser.

House builders are banding themselves together to end Jerry-building after the war. About 90 per cent of the private builders who will put up 85 per cent of Britain's new houses have agreed to accept certain standards and to permit inspectors to examine their work. If their buildings are found they will receive a certificate which will guarantee to the purchaser of the house that if anything goes wrong within two years the builder will put it right.—London Daily Mail.

Benjamin H. Marshall, 70, designer-for-living architect, died of a heart ailment in Chicago. He designed Chicago's Blackstone, Drake and Edgewater Beach hotels. New York's Maxine Elliott Theatre and Philadelphia's Forrest, for himself designed a plush, gaudy, tricked-up house which boasted a Ming bed that slept seven, a dining table that came up like a soup course, sank to the kitchen below, came back with the chicken and gravy.—Time.

Every time we come to Montreal, we walk up and down St. James Street and wonder why it should get the general effect. This general effect, to be frank, is rather disappointing, especially if you think up and down St. James Street on a Sunday or a holiday, when the legendary monsters who inhabit these parts are all playing golf, when the great office buildings are deserted, and you could easily play a game of baseball right in the middle of the street. By Richard J. Needham, writing to the Calgary Herald from Montreal.

Rome has fallen before, and with quite different consequences. It fell to the Gauls, who sacked it in 390 B.C.; it was largely burned in Nero's fire in 64 A.D.; it was sacked by Alaric in 410 A.D.; by Genseric the Vandal in 455; it was taken by the German Arminius in 468; by the Saracens in 858; by the stable of Bourbon in 1527; it was seized by Napoleon the Great in 1808; by Napoleon the Little in 1848; finally, the conscienceless adventurer, for whom the best can be said is that he did not believe in his own nonsense, took it in 1922.—New York Times.

In an unsuccessful effort to reach America with a short-wave station, Eire spent \$24,000. J. P. Little, Minister of Posts, stated in Dublin. Alluding to complaints about interference with the station, he said that although the matter was serious, nothing could be done. "Beyond making representations to foreign countries, we can hardly expect to get the matter adjusted until present working conditions settle," he explained. Reviewing a year's work by the broadcasting station, he said that the news service had been improved and that the station hoped to have a news service of its own. The decision would be adopted after the war, he added.

All restrictions upon the delivery of wheat in Western Canada have been removed. Hereafter only the natural restrictions will apply to the availability of the grain. The move the product and of the line elevators to handle it as it is offered by the growers. The announcement of the removal of the quota restrictions on delivery marks the return of an old era. The new era on wheat came to the Great Plains about four years ago when, owing to an overabundant surplus, the Government was forced to ask farmers to keep the bulk of the wheat they raised in bins on the farm. We were then bent on reducing our wheat production. Even at the end of 1942 we had something like a billion bushels in Canada. The wheat has disappeared as if by magic. Today farmers have been given the go-ahead sign to deliver as they please and to grow as much as they like.—There's an almost certain market for it.—Lethbridge Herald.

On a tour of Indian missions in the Far North, Roman Catholic Bishop R. Dignan, of the Sault Ste. Marie Diocese, was preparing to fly to one of the most isolated stations in the diocese for a confirmation service. A well-dressed, well-spoken Indian woman approached him. She asked if he could take her along as a passenger. The bishop pointed to the already crowded plane but when the woman explained she was the organist at the mission he was going to visit, he relented. With some adroit manoeuvring the woman managed to squeeze aboard the plane. If anybody had needed during the flight the cabin would have burst. However, land-

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of subjects of general interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not assume responsibility for the opinions of contributors.

JAPANESE BEETLE HERE?

Sir,—With reference to your article of July 15, of a description of the Japanese beetle, I found one today on a field of potatoes. I picked it up to examine it and it flew away. It was exactly like your description with dark green head and brown body. When it opened its wings they were twice as long as the body. I will notify the proper authorities and send them to the farm of Edwin Taylor at North Beach. I will show them where I found it.

I am Sir, etc. P. H. TAYLOR, Wilmot Valley, P. E. I.

THE C. A. A. GROUNDS

Sir,—Pat Power's lament in Friday's "In This Corner" strikes a responsive chord in the physical and mental fabric of your humble scribe. To doubt there is, that nostalgia is general among the older inhabitants of the well beloved C. A. A. grounds, that well kept track and center of the present "Cares" for the youth of Charlottetown and our Island community in general; as a youth of North Beach, I will show them where I found it.

It was the principal factor in the physical development of our youth in order that they could compete successfully at home and abroad—even to the Olympics. Mr. Power named a comparative few of our boys. He would not presume to try to name them all. Many of them are living abroad and will feel lonesome and frustrated when they are reminded of the day that one of the best athletic grounds in the Maritimes is left to the forces of decay.

Let us not give the home—now is the time to start re-habilitation on the old grounds—or some other place. Reams could be written of the benefits of a good open air athletic ground. It is an inspiration to the youth of the island. Cross roads and village streets would soon be formed to practice the standard events with the mention of competition in Charlottetown for the island championships.

It appears that there is not enough attention to physical development in our schools. The school would be the proper place to inculcate the idea. I think that the primordial urge to test one's strength and endurance among humans has been evident since the days of the Greek Olympics and Roman gladiators to the latter day fights of Dempsey and Joe Louis.

Something drastic must be done to better the physical condition of our youth—which would be inversely proportional as a deterrent of juveniles to adult delinquency. The records show that a large number of army applicants were for some months were able to qualify.

It would appear that the City Council and Provincial Government should take an active, tangible interest in providing athletic grounds. It would be a public spirited measure in keeping with the trend of the times in other provinces and States. The present time is the life of our youth. Let us accept the moral support and benediction—if not something more tangible. Charlottetown is the "Queen" city of the Maritimes and everything possible and feasible should be done for its benefit.

The German fantasmagoria of a Nazi empire is vanishing fast—and the times of the war will see the multiples very soon. Japan will be begging for mercy by next summer. Let us propose that a large American onslaught, and the boys will be home again. Let us not leave the present time to a nebulous state for a long time. The present time is the life of our youth. Let us accept the moral support and benediction—if not something more tangible. Charlottetown is the "Queen" city of the Maritimes and everything possible and feasible should be done for its benefit.

I am Sir, etc. JAMES FENBERGAST, Kensington.

Ing safely at their destination the bishop spotted transportation waiting to take him to the mission. "I brought along the organist for the service." "Organist?" exclaimed the priest. Why, we haven't an organist here. But by this time the wily backwoods hitch-hiker had disappeared, leaving the general shop with a feeling that somehow or other he had just been taken for a ride.—Maclean's Magazine.

Then on in the bitter noon of day Past the dark, deep forest way To Caen of the spires and the bays grey, And the green craig-nest of Falaise. There was he bred; and at Caen That ruthless breast and brow. This was the Conqueror's Coast of God-speed to its conquerors now! —Lucio in the Manchester Guardian.

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