

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

FRIDAY, JULY 5, 1940

Britain's Sea Supremacy

The question of what has become of the French Navy since the capitulation of the Petain Government has now been pretty well answered. A "large proportion" of it is in British control, in Alexandria, Portsmouth, Plymouth and Sheerness, or put out of action in Wednesday's naval battle off Oran, the French colonial port in North Africa. The details of this engagement are given in today's despatches, together with the imposing list of French battleships, cruisers, submarines and other craft now definitely out of the reach of Germany and Italy. It appears that the only French capital ship in German hands is the Dunkerque, which escaped to Toulon after being struck by a British torpedo and damaged sufficiently to be put out of action for a long time. Why is this great British naval victory—for such indeed it is—could not have been scored over the German and Italian fleets and not over a former ally? But Britain had no choice in the matter, where her own safety was so seriously menaced. Had the French admiral at Oran acceded to the British terms, instead of insisting in attempting to bring his flotilla into an enemy port—allegedly to be interned but most certainly to be used in action against British shipping—much loss of life could have been avoided. It was not against the French people that the British guns were directed, but against a traitorous government which has been repudiated by many gallant French soldiers and seamen, now preparing to fight side by side with the British forces. As a result of Wednesday's engagement and of the seizure of French ships at Alexandria and other ports, the comparative strength of the British Navy over the enemy fleets remains practically unchanged notwithstanding the capitulation of the Petain administration.

Some Sorry Examples

The House of Commons has approved a measure clothing the Government with general mobilization powers, says the Montreal Gazette. The first step in the exercise of those powers should be taken by the Prime Minister himself in mobilizing Mr. Mackenzie King. It has become necessary for the Leader of the Government to do what other Canadian citizens are being obliged to do, namely, to make some personal sacrifice, if of a somewhat different kind. He must put aside his personal and political animosities and replace them with patriotic zeal, practically expressed. He has spoken upon more than one occasion of enlarging and strengthening his Cabinet—a concession to the now practically unanimous demand for a National Government. He had not yet said that he will go outside the ranks of his own party. He must do this since in no other way can his Government be made nationally representative, and it must be nationally representative if the Dominion is to have a war plan and is to execute that plan with the necessary speed and vigor. Another suggestion, emanating this time from the Opposition leader in the House of Commons, should be given consideration by Mr. King and his cabinet colleagues at this time. That is the need of setting an example of economy in all but essential war services. The new budget has been well received by the public, despite the drastic taxation; but the same public has a right to be assured that every dollar of revenue is properly expended. It came out in the House last week that L. W. Brockington, former chairman of the Canadian Broadcasting Commission, is still in the employ of the Government, on a salary of \$9,000 a year plus \$12 a day expense money. According to the statement in the House, Mr. Brockington's chief task is to write the Prime Minister's broadcasts and speeches. It seems absurd, as Hon. Mr. Hanson pointed out, to be paid this amount for such services, if Mr. King is too busy to prepare his own speeches, he has secretaries permanently on the payroll who should be able to do the work. In any case the salary and expenses are out of all proportion to the value rendered, so far as the taxpayers are concerned. Another seemingly unnecessary expense has been incurred, according to a Toronto exchange, in the appointment of Mr. Malcolm MacLean, defeated Liberal candidate for Melfort, Sask., to the position of liaison officer between the members and the Minister of Air Defence. This is in addition to the expensive machinery already set up for the distribution of information through official channels.

The foregoing examples—and others have been cited in Parliament and in the press—afford a strong argument for reorganization of the Government on a wider basis, with policies eliminated. Under present conditions there must be confidence in Ottawa, and there can be no confidence under an administration which seems incapable of ridding itself of the barnacles of political patronage.

Electric Map Making

Air photography has made rapid development in recent years, not alone in war, which is a reminder that with a view to speeding up the preparation of forestry maps from air photographs, the Dominion forest service has developed the photo-electric planimeter, an amazing instrument which measures map areas two to three times as rapidly as the ordinary planimeter. Although only in the experimental stages the re-

sults of the photo-electric planimeter are highly accurate, and this accuracy will be still further increased when certain proposed improvements have been incorporated in the instrument. The principle utilized in the photo-electric planimeter is based upon the action of photo-electric cells in producing an electric current when subjected to light. Light coming from an illuminated surface is measured by the current it produces in the photo-electric cells. The area to be measured is cut out of a map which has been blackened on the back, and the cutout is placed between an illuminated surface and the photo-electric cells. Thus the light reaching the cells is reduced in proportion to the size of the blackened area interposed, and the measurement of this reduced light enables computation of the size of the area. This improved means of area measurement will have many fields of use, particularly with pulpwood and lumber companies, and government departments administering forest lands. It can also be utilized by engineering organizations to measure plotted profile areas, in laboratories for the testing of structural materials, and for many other uses in scientific industry.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Cecil Rhodes, Imperial statesman and benefactor, born this date, 1853—"The unctuous recititude of my countrymen leaves 'so little done, so much to do.'"

It takes statesmen like Foster, Borden and Hanson to see and advocate the need of personal self-sacrifice in the interest of the common good, but curiously enough organized temperance not unusually throws its political weight against them.

All employers of labour are reminded that tomorrow is the first day they must deduct the National Defence Tax from employees wages to be handed over to the Income Tax Inspectors on the 15th of each month. The tax in the case of a single person is two per cent on wages from \$600 to \$1,200 per annum, and three per cent above \$1,200. Employers and employees are under penalties for non-fulfillment of this patriotic duty.

Business as usual should be still the slogan of those left to keep the home fires burning. The morale of the people is largely dependent upon a carry-on policy, and the avoidance of anything that would tend to depression. The boys going for training, or to the front, should be sent off with a cheer and a smile, and not at a funeral pace with a solemnity that would break the heart of a plaster saint. Let us have music and laughter, such as they have at the centre of the Empire where they are in imminent danger day and night from Hitler's bombs and parachutists.

Births registered in 67 cities and towns in May numbered 8,149, deaths 4,839 and marriages 4,635, as compared with 7,501 births, 4,711 deaths and 3,392 marriages in May last year, showing increases of 8 1-2 per cent in births, 3 per cent in deaths and 37 per cent in marriages. Births registered during the five months ending May totalled 37,536, deaths 23,171 and marriages 18,331 as against 35,820 births, 23,715 deaths and 12,710 marriages during the corresponding five months last year. This comparison shows increases of 5 per cent in births and 44 per cent in marriages and a decrease of 2 per cent in deaths.

Four brothers, the oldest fourteen, of Sorel, Que., went into the woods near their home blueberrying Monday 22nd. Three of them pushed on ahead, leaving the fourth, nine years old, a little behind. The three ultimately made for home to discover their brother had not preceded them. A search started, lasting from Monday night till Sunday morning when the body of the child was found behind a barn not far from his home. It appears that there were four barns together, the searchers on Wednesday night looked behind three of them, but on a false alarm that the boy had been seen elsewhere, did not trouble to search behind the very one where the lost boy was actually sleeping exhausted at the time. The coroner's verdict—death by starvation, the body being emaciated but not rigid when discovered, showing death had just occurred.

Piano manufacturers beat a path to a little one-man shop in Marshfield, Mass., bearing the simple inscription over the door, "Lawnmowers and Tools Sharpened." It is the plant of Charlie Randall, who manufactures piano dowels. The owner says it is the only shop of its kind in New England, and although he supplies thousands of dowels annually to the great piano manufacturers of the Middle West, Randall also finds time to sharpen tools and lawnmowers for residents of the community. The dowels look like lollipop sticks, but are really the product of fine precision workmanship. On an average day he can turn out and tumble finish 3,000, every one necessarily perfect in every detail. All tools and machinery were designed and manufactured by the owner himself.

Canada is the largest supplier of asbestos to Japan, followed by the United States and the Union of South Africa. For some years Canada has supplied approximately three-quarters of total Japanese imports of asbestos. In a report to the Department of Trade and Commerce M. T. Stewart, Assistant Canadian Trade Commissioner at Tokyo states that the volume of shipments from Canada in 1939 amounting to 20,532 tons, declined by 15.2 per cent against shipments in 1938. Those from Rhodesia declined by 65.8 per cent, from Mozambique by 42.2 per cent, and from Russia to nil; while the quantity from the United States increased by 83.1 per cent, from the Union of South Africa by 20.5 per cent, and from Manchuria by 28.0 per cent. "Under the existing circumstances," says Mr. Stewart, "Japan has to rely almost entirely upon foreign sources of supply for her requirements of asbestos and will be obliged to cling to the sources in Canada, the United States and South African countries unless she can discover sufficient and suitable resources of this material elsewhere."

NOTES BY THE WAY

Adolf Hitler built up his great force more than anything else on the political weakness of his adversaries. He forged his arms while the democracies exhausted their energies in intestine quarrels and permitted admissible abuses of true liberty. Here we are witness of too much "playing politics." It creates a smoke screen that hides the real situation. It is too much chicanery in our war legislation and not enough of that brutal and courageous frankness which gives the British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, an almost superhuman influence over the people of Great Britain. We still await the leader who knows how to speak to the people in all our times of L'illustration Nouvelle (Montreal).

Prudence and justice command all Canadians to reserve for the moment their judgment on the grave events that are happening in Europe. Between Marshal Petain and General de Gaulle, between the two great Frenchmen, let us halt the fighting and the impulsion on the other hand to continue to fight the French people will make their choice. We can only hope for one thing, that Europe will not be the decision to serve at once the cause of Great Britain and France. —Le Canada (Montreal).

A veteran of the Fenian Raid is dead at the age of 96. This man had seen amazing changes in methods of warfare since the days when men with a few muskets and a few pound cannon or so, made up invading and defending armies. —Toronto Globe and Mail.

The only fellow travellers that can be tolerated now are fellow travellers of Canada and Canada's allies in this struggle. —The Citizen, Ottawa.

The smallest income tax imposed at the rates in the new revenue bill now before the Senate is \$11. To question "To question base should be broadened until \$5 and even \$2 taxes are levied on income taxpayers. One reason for this is the familiar one that the more persons are taxed the greater the tax consciousness of the country will be. A newer reason is that small incomes may be subjected to the tax. Let us look at the record. In this state are registered 2,230,000 passenger automobiles. They are driven by 2,750,000 persons. The figure is based on the number of licenses issued in 1937. Yet only 665,000 persons pay state income taxes, and fewer, perhaps, pay Federal income taxes. It is roughly, that of three persons well enough off to own motor cars two are "too poor" in the eyes of the legislators to pay an income tax, even the tiny tax that would be put upon them. —New York Sun.

An item which seemed incredible came to me from Brooklyn this week, but investigation proved it true. Twenty years ago a German cook named Rosi went to work over here for a Jewish family. She was paid a salary of sixty dollars a month and she never cashed one of her salary checks. Mr. David advanced her small amounts for clothing and groceries, and he had a bank account to cover the accumulated checks. Recently, Rosi brought her cheque book to Mr. David and asked that he give her one cheque for all she had coming. Mr. David figured up, deducted the advances to Rosi, and found that she had accrued a little over fourteen hundred dollars. What, Mr. David asked, was Rosi going to do with the fourteen thousand dollars? She told him she was going to hand it over to a local bank, and then in turn forward it to Germany as a contribution to the Nazi war chest. "And don't you believe all that talk about Hitler persecuting the Jews," she added. "Why would he be so stupid?" Mr. David brought forward what arguments he could, but Rosi said, "I said I would. Bund had assured her that German Jews were as happy as larks. The money is now on its way to Germany. —The New Yorker.

It is high time that Canadians confronted realities. Doing so, they will meet the budget demands without making any sacrifice. Our efforts must be directed to achieve victory. At the same time, do not let us neglect to buy war savings' certificates and prepare to subscribe to the national war loan. We must beat Hitler, silence those bells ringing in Germany in celebration of France's humility; and, sealing their lips, we must have cause to thank God for saving France through having saved the Empire. —Le Petit Journal (Montreal).

The mobilization act is the only way in which the total resources of the country can be utilized for the total defence of the Dominion. There is no reason why any factor of our national activities should be exempt. In view of the national danger, no privileges should be permitted. Labor and capital alike must make sacrifices. We have a powerful and unscrupulous enemy outside, and an organization of sabotage and defeaism within this country. It is against this double danger that the whole effort of our general mobilization must be directed. But beyond the interior danger created by fifth columnists there is another menace, born of the discontent resulting from mass unemployment. One outcome of the general mobilization should be the suppression of this unemployment, which has been the "beast" in Canada for the past ten years. We have, then, to vanquish enemies outside the country and within the country, commencing with the latter, who are secretly trying to undermine the framework of our social edifice. —Le Monde Ouvrier (Montreal).

The City of Reykjavik, in Iceland (whose defence has been assumed by the Allies), offers little field for either politics or journalism. It has 37,000 people, but no unemployment, no poverty, no police force, no deficit, no slums. As a crowning touch, a project is under way for bringing hot water from natural springs through a heating system to heat every building and garden patch in town at no fuel cost. —Vancouver Sun.

Premier Aberhart is reported to have prophesied that Italy is to help the Allies and Hitler is to disappear. But his standing as a prophet has been somewhat impaired by his failure to produce the \$25 a month "bonus" for each citizen of Alberta, which he also forecast. —Toronto Globe and Mail.

Strange Case of Mr. Leslie Roberts

TOO EVASIVE The following are taken from the debates of the Senate, Ottawa, June 26, 1940:

POSITION OF MR. LESLIE ROBERTS INQUIRY

Hon. Mr. HAIG inquired of the Government: 1. Is Leslie Roberts a salaried man in the Government service? 2. If so, in what service, and on what salary, and what is his title? 3. If the answer to No. 1 is in the affirmative, when did he enter the service, and in what capacity, and on what salary. He said: Honourable members, before the honourable gentleman replies to my inquiry, I may say, in order to give him some information, that I have in my hand a postcard bearing on one side a picture of a convoy, and on the other side the following text:

Convoys Don't Advertise

Where is the deep-water harbour from which eastbound convoys dispatch? But such is the story of anti-submarine nets seal its entrance? How do destroyers, patrol bombers, trawlers, long-range guns protect sea lanes? What is Canada's part in convoying ships successfully across the Atlantic? Leslie Roberts, Special Assistant to the Minister of Defence, unfolds a factual story of convoy patrol and the part played by Canadian seamen and ships. Five Cents at All News-Stands. Get Your Copy To-Day The Saturday Evening Post.

This postcard was dropped into all the letterboxes of the city of Halifax. Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I have not been able to follow the reading of the postcard, which might be of interest if my honourable friend would send it to me. I am simply faced with the question, "To question No. 1 the answer is 'No.' This is also the answer to the second and third questions.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: This man must be sailing under false colours. Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Maybe so, but if my right honourable friend is under the impression he will see that it is a very simple one. It is: Is Leslie Roberts a salaried man in the Government Service?

Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: Is he working for nothing? Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: That is another question. Some Hon. SENATORS: Oh, oh. Hon. C. P. BEAUBIEN: Or has he left the employ of the Government?

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: That is still another question. Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: He may be on daily pay, but I do not think he is working for nothing. He is sailing under the colours of the Special Assistant to the Minister of Defence, and is writing things that no man should be allowed to write. Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I would draw the attention of my right honourable friend to the question as it appears. To-day, on the 26th of June, the answer is "No," and I think it would have been the same on the 1st of June. If the question were, "Is Leslie Roberts employed in the Government service?" the answer would be "No."

POSITION OF MR. LESLIE ROBERTS NOTICE OF INQUIRY

On the Orders of the Day: Hon. Mr. HAIG: Honourable members, before the Orders of the Day are called, may I refer to my inquiry about Leslie Roberts, which was answered this afternoon? Apparently his wording was not clear to the honourable leader (Hon. Mr. Dandurand). I should like to ask the honourable leader this: Is Leslie Roberts now, or has he ever been, a special assistant to the Minister of Defence? Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Is my honourable friend giving notice of an inquiry? Hon. Mr. HAIG: I thought perhaps the honourable leader, having already made inquiries about Leslie Roberts, and informed me that he was not a salaried employee of the Government, could tell me now whether he is an employed without salary.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: Will my honourable friend place his notice of inquiry on the Order Paper? Hon. Mr. HAIG: All right.

POSITION OF MR. LESLIE ROBERTS

Hon. Mr. HAIG inquired: Is Leslie Roberts at present, or has he at any time been, special assistant to the Minister of National Defence? Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: I have an answer from the Acting Deputy Minister of Militia. The answer to the first part of the question is, "No." To the second part the answer is, "Yes, he was employed temporarily on special duty."

The Poet's Corner FROM "THE ART OF POETRY" Most poets fall into the grossest faults. Deluded by a seeming excellence: By striving to be short they grow obscure. And when they would write smoothly, they want strength, Their spirits sink . . . Let poets match their subject to their strength, And often try what weight they can support. And what their shoulders are too weak to bear. After a serious and judicious choice, Method and eloquence will never fail. As well the force as ornament of verse. Consists in choosing a fit time for things. And knowing when a muse should be induced. In her full flight, and when she should be curbed. . . —Horace 50 B.C.-8 B.C.

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.

SOURIS EXHIBITION GRANT

SIR:—I have just received a letter from D. F. McLaughlin, Souris East representing the directors of the Souris Exhibition Association, stating that they have cancelled their exhibition for this season and suggesting that the Government use their grant for war purposes. This Department and the Government wishes to express their appreciation and thanks to the Souris Exhibition Association. I am, Sir, etc.

W. H. DENNIS Minister of Agriculture

At Public Expense

(Ottawa Journal) For a long time the Post Office of Canada has accepted circulars for delivery to the impersonal "Householder" at the very low rate of one-half cent each up to the weight of one ounce. It was a special rate intended to encourage "business." Now it has been discovered by the Department that this distribution has been carried out at a loss. Its statement says: "It has been ascertained that the revenue derived from circulars mailed for local distribution to householders at the half-cent rate is not sufficient to take care of the cost of handling and the extra clerical work involved in making the necessary special arrangements for these mailings."

Moreover, said an official of the Department, this special mailing privilege was "not a successful venture from the standpoint of business men" who look advantage of the Post Office for years has handled these circulars at a loss, that the public treasury has made up the difference. In effect we have paid a bonus to those who used postal facilities for "householder" circulars—and even so it was not worth their while.

The householder was subjected to annoyance by a flood of unwanted printed matter which cluttered his mail box and made important letters liable to loss. And to complete the picture he had to help pay the cost of delivering it to him! Nor is that all. Postmen were turned into pack-horses, juggling around their under-cost material, and delivery of legitimate mails sometimes must have been delayed. After July 31 such circulars must pay the regular rate of one cent. It is a change too long delayed. It might have gone further: Circulars addressed to "householder" should be banned altogether as a general nuisance.

Nazi Parachutists

While all will fervently pray that the time will never come when residents of this continent will make first-hand acquaintance with German parachute troops, it is of interest to know how they operate and get their results. The man is attached to his parachute by a cord which is fastened to the aeroplane; he is able to descend from a height as low as 150 feet. It is possible to land and assemble a company within a quarter of an hour on a small space. The parachutists wear a close-fitted steel helmet, a double-breasted tunic blue-grey in colour, with trousers of the plus-four type, tucked into boots half-knee high, and gaiter-socks. Each man carries a knife for disentanglement, a respirator, a haversack, hand grenades and a gun capable of firing 600 rounds a minute. There are other weapons and equipment dropped in special containers attached to self-opening parachutes, one for every four or five men. Ammunition, rifles, field glasses, compasses, spades, smoke candles and wire are carried in the containers.

For every battalion of parachutists there is a complement of auxiliary weapons, comprising a three-inch mountain gun, medium and light mortars, heavy machine-guns and machine-gun platoons. The duties from December 6, 1939, to April 15, 1940.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: We were told yesterday amid some amusement, that he was not in the employ of the Government.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: He is not.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: This says he is.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: No. He is not.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: He is out now?

Hon. Mr. HARDY: Out in April.

Right Hon. Mr. MEIGHEN: The election was over in March.

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objectives of the parachute troops are described as being "to organize local members of 'fifth column' and arm them; to create panic and confusion and spread false news among the civil population; to harass lines of communication; to damage bridges, power stations, wireless and telephone exchanges, stores and dumps; to give information to aircraft by means of signals." Members of these battalions are volunteers who have undergone special training. They have proved their effectiveness in the countries successively overrun by the Nazi armies, and a new type of defence against their activities has had to be developed. Before the men are actually dropped from the aeroplanes, a reconnaissance is generally made by other aircraft. The dodges to which these troops resort have brought them into contempt despite their unquestioned bravery. They have, as is well known, not hesitated to wear clothes which conceal their identity, contrary to the usages of war as previously conducted. Another trick is to pretend to surrender, but to hurl hand grenades at any who approach them. Such treachery explains the rough handling they have sometimes received which has inspired loath and indignant protests from the German command.

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