THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

MONDAY, MAY 1, 1939

The Russian Air Flight

It was unfortunate that the Russian airplane failed to attain its objective, viz., from Moscow to New York in 25 hours, but the fact that it "all but" did it reflects to the credit of the distinguished pilot, Major Kokkinaki and his navigator Bryandionsky.

Major Kokkinaki is one of the aviation heroes of the Soviet Union and an internationally known test pilot. A former sailor and stevedore, the young flier is the holder of more than a half-dozen international records.

Russia's Air Corps marked its twenty-first anniversary last November and it was recognized that the most striking individual performance in Russian aviation had been that of Major Kokkinaki in the non-stop flight from Moscow to the vicinity of Vladivostok in June. He had flown the 4,254 miles in 24 hours 36 minutes.

In 1935 Major Kokkinaki set an altitude record when he flew to a height of 47,800 feet above Moscow.

In recent years the flier has supported the Soviet government's efforts to increase the number of fliers in Russia. In 1937 he was active in a campaign to train 1,000 pilots for every 1,000,000 of the country's population.

Last year Major Kokkinaki was named a Hero of the Soviet Union in a decree signed by President Mikhail Kalinin.

Denounces National Park

There are two Campbells in the Campbell Government, a fact which makes for a good deal of confusion because while these gentlemen have similar names they are often strikingly at varience on matters of government policy.

Take for example the question of the National Park. Premier Campbell has on several occasions lauded the advantages of this Park to the Province. His colleague in the Cabinet—the Hon. John A. Campbell—has also spoken, and to the following effect as reported in the Campbell Government organ:

"He was not much in favour, Mr. Campbell said, of a National Park. The whole Province is a park . . . . He could not see any remedy *in launching out on National Park expenditures* at a time when people are striving to make a living, when the majority of our people were merely existing, when two-thirds of our farmers have their properties mortgaged, when our *fishermen are on the point of going out of business.* Here we have great luxuries looming up before us, and who is going to take advantage of them? It is the poor farmer in the outlying districts? Is it the poor fisherman? NOT AT ALL! We are *paving a road there for something* that may not be of any benefit. We are SPENDING MONEY BY THE THOUSANDS in the interests of people of some far country who may come here in the future and leave a little money. SOMEBODY WILL PAY FOR IT, and find out that it is not just as bright as it looks. The people of Prince Edward Island are justly entitled to a little recreation as well as anybody else. What are we doing to provide it? (Patriot, April 19, 1938.)

Those Bond Borrowings

The jittery condition into which the Campbell Government has been thrown by Dr. MacMillan's forceful speech, reported in Saturday's Guardian, may be judged from the reaction in its party organ, which devotes several columns to misrepresenting the Conservative leader's statements.

It devotes special attention to his criticism of the irregular methods adopted in floating Liberal bond issues, particularly the issue of $325,000 last December. This issue, our contemporary says, "was for 5,325,000", which, if correct, would make the Government's borrowings to date in excess of nine and a half millions!

It says Dr. MacMillan was acting "wifully and valiciously" when he quoted the interest rate of 3 1-2 instead of 3 per cent, because this was just "an error in the Public Accounts." It admits that tenders were called on an option basis and that the Bank of Montreal and syndicate which handled the Nova Scotia issue at *101.28 to yield 2.04 per cent, would only bid on the Island issue on a firm basis,* which, of course, was not a bid at all under the terms requested.

Why was the option basis insisted on, and why did the Government not deal directly with the banks but through a mysterious third party? Dr. MacMillan's criticism on this point, which the Liberal press seeks to show is unfounded, finds corroboration in that well-known financial publication, the Monetary Times, which stated at the time:

"In one of the strangest bits of highgrade financing in recent months, the Province of Prince Edward Island has granted a fifteen day option on $325,000 of 3 per cent bonds due in twelve years to a syndicate headed by R. A. Daly and Company. *The INCREDIBLE part of the transaction is the Province's request for tenders on an option basis instead of on a firm bid basis.*

"The last time Prince Edward Island required a loan the bids were unsatisfactory and some difficulty was experienced in placing the loan. But the present situation is quite different *and why the Province would not ask for firm bids as well as bids on an option basis is incomprehensbile. SOME VERY UNSOUND ADVICE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN HANDED OUT FROM SOME QUARTER."*

The Monetary Times goes on to state that firm bids were received from at least two other syndicates at close to the accepted price, *"which would have relieved the Province of all liability in the transaction."*

The Liberal press quotes the Financial Post, another outstanding paper, with regard to the Nova Scotia issue; but much more to the point is that paper's statement regarding the Campbell Government's bond borrowing methods. This is what the Financial Post had to say in February, 1938:

"Prince Edward Island has rejected bids for an issue of $400,000 bonds. While the public announcement has been made by the Provincial Government in regard to prospective financing, several weeks ago tenders were called for PRIVATELY on a $400,000 issue. Several investment houses were asked to submit alternative bids for different maturities. *Reasons for rejection of the bids HAVE NOT BEEN GIVEN.*

"The Financial Post is informed that one of the difficulties encountered by the investment dealers in making bids was the inability of the Province to provide a detail of financial results for the year ended Dec. 31, 1937. The latest available report is for the year 1936."

Premier Campbell issued a statement attempting to refute the Financial Post, in which he admitted that NO TENDERS OF ANY KIND had been called. Some investment houses "had approached the Government with the suggestion that they might be allowed to submit bids." The Government's inability to provide them with required information was due, he said, to the Audit not being completed. "A statement was made, however, to the competing investment houses to the effect that the Budget for 1937 had forecast a deficit of $60,000, and that this forecast would not be far astray in either direction."

How was that for Liberal financing?

Instead of the forecast deficit of $60,000 the Government had a deficit that year, on current account alone, of $120,773. So the Premier's tip to the investment houses, just a few weeks before the Audit was completed and which he assured them "would not be far astray in either direction," turned out to be as worthless as his pledges to the electors.

Editorial Notes

His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught born this date, 1850.

* * *

Welcome the merry month of May with the advent of the King and Queen, and, the departure, it is to be hoped of the Campbell "harpies."

* * * *

Both the Ontario and Quebec Houses have prorogued without waiting for His Majesty the King to do so, as at first suggested. As the Federal Parliament is merely to adjourn over the Royal Visit, all His Majesty can do in that case is to give his assent in person to one or more new Acts. This he will do without wearing his Imperial Crown, which he will leave safely at home.

* * * *

For a time it looked as though Charlottetown would have to go to the rescue of the brave Russian navigators who got stranded on Miscou Island Friday night. The crew of the S. S. Montcalm, Marine officials and Newspaper representatives were all in readiness to set sail at 1 a. m., when word came from Ottawa that the two pilots preferred to remain all night by their wrecked machine.

* *

Premier Campbell's juggling with finances has brought his downfall. He says the unpaid Road accounts carried forward were for the 50 miles contracted to be done in the current year. 1939. If that be so then this is what it means:

46 miles in 1938, total, $221,791.41 or $4,821.12 per mile.

50 miles in 1939 total, $448,340.09 or $8,966.80 per mile.

What do the taxpayers think of that for high financing?

* * * *

Hiding behind officials' petticoats has been characteristic of the Campbell Government. Whenever they got into a tight corner they cited the responsibilty of an official. The latest example was when Hon. Mr. Allen cited an alleged statement of the Provincial Auditor for the alleged amount of unpaid accounts as at December 31 last. It is highly unethical for a Chartered Accountant to be quoted except over his written certificate. Did Mr. Massey give Mr. Allen such a certificate, and if so will he produce it? Then we had the extraordinary situation of the Premier and Secretary-Treasurer, the responsible Minister, quoting this second hand uncertified authority. A sorry pass we have reached in undemocratic, irresponsible administration.

* * * *

A little interlude in the House of Commons the other day shows the hearts of the members are in the right place, whether or not their tongues on occasion have been in their cheeks. Romeo Larteille, a 16-year-old page boy in the House of Commons, was given an ovation when, attention was called to his part in saving the life of six-year-old Jeanette Fex, who fell into a creek on the out-skirts of Ottawa Sunday. Mr. Daniel McIvor recounted the incident and asked the boy to stand to receive the acclaim of the members. Blushing, Romeo stood while members pounded their desks. The page and a companion, George Robillard, plunged into the creek and saved Jeanette, who was being carried rapidly into the Ottawa River

NOTES BY THE WAY

Enemies of the Rideau canal are fond of pointing to the small volume of freight passing through its locks as a reason why it should be abandoned. Of course, such traffic has declined almost to the vanishing point. But pleasure-boat traffic has not dropped. On the contrary, it is probably increasing and as more and more people who are learning to appreciate the pleasure and value of water trips discover the Rideau, it will increase still more, because there is no more attractive or fascinating cruise by water in all Eastern Canada than that through the canal which By and his Sappers and Miners built over a century ago. We hope the day will never come when the Rideau is abandoned. And we don't believe it will come, because successive governments will always realize that the benefits of keeping the waterway open and staffed far exceed the small financial gain that might result from letting its works fall into decay. —Brockville Recorder and Times.

Reports from Shanghai indicate that employment has been greatly increased as destroyed plants have been more than replaced by new textile factories. The conditions, however, are not as bright as that. Factories are working, true, but the employees receive such low wage that even those employed full time are in dire straits. In most instances wages are pitifully low, while living costs have gone up. Workers in the reeling of silk and the spinning of cotton are reported to be working for what represents half a Canadian cent an hour while the dollar of pre-war times is worth 63 cents today. Many important events and unhappy situations clamor for attention these days, *most of them closer to our personal* immediate concern than Shankhai. But the report of the industrial survey and the story of men working twelve hours a day for half a cent an hour in sub-human living conditions complicated by the presence of thousands of refugees in a state of semi-slavery, serve to *bring home graphically the misery* of non-combatants in war and the hypocrisy of the aggressor's pretense of a constructive industrial and social policy. —St. Catharines Standard.

Diphtheria is disappearing from France. It has practically disappeared from the French army because every soldier is compelled to be toxoided. It is rapidly disappearing from the cities and country districts because every child on entering school must present a certificate of immunity. Fifty years ago there were 1,500 deaths a year from diphtheria in Paris, whereas in 1937 there were but 87 deaths, the mortality having dropped from 80 to less than three per hundred thousand of population. Toxoiding against diphtheria is compulsory not only in France, but also in Hungary, Rumania, Poland, and in the city of Geneva, Switzerland. Because of the use of toxoid on this side of the Atlantic, Canada and the United States are eliminating diphtheria. Fourteen of the smaller Canadian cities where toxoid has been in use, have been free of diphtheria deaths for periods of five to 10 years. Other and larger cities have been remarkably free for long periods. If, year by year, the rising generation of children are protected by the use of toxoid, diphtheria as a major problem will soon disappear from our midst. —Health League of Canada.

A pleasing incident is reported from Nice, where submarines of the Mediterranean fleet have been on an official visit writes our Cannes correspondent. Last year a British naval rating, in the course of a dispute with a Nice taxicab driver, was shot in the stomach and for many weeks hung between life and death. The taxicab driver was sentenced to a short term of imprisonment and his victim was awarded 10,000f. (£80) damages. The sailor happened to be in one of the submarines recently visiting Nice, and on his arrival he sought out the taxicab driver and, on learning that he was a very poor man immediately waived his claim to the 10,000f., packed the wife and family of his erstwhile assailant into the taxicab and entertained them all at tea on board the submarine. —London Times.

The news that General Franco has conscripted battalions of cats and sent them to Madrid to kill the armies of rats and mice bred during the siege is but another incident in their military and economic history. During the war many thousands of British cats were conscripted into army and navy, where they served gallantly and well. In the trenches of Flanders they did excellent work in "liquidating" the legions of tormenting rats and, by reason of their keen scent and general sensitivity, often acted as first-rate gas-alarms. Their record in the navy, both ashore and afloat, was no less happy, and was especially distinguished in submarines and naval stores. Many military and naval cats are thus employed today, and are maintained by the taxpayer. In the next war, we are informed, they will be conscripted in even greater numbers. —Manchester Guardian.

The present leaders of Germany, coming into power when one worker in three was unemployed, rushing in where our own rulers had for years feared to tread. Those members of the MacDonald cabinet who in 1930, taught by Mr. Lloyd George, wanted to borrow and spend £200,000,000 to get some of our unemployed men and resources at work where as one of them said, "spoken of in terms of something like ridicule." The National Socialist Government of Germany a year or two later, in a country denuded of financial reserves, passed over the objections of those holding the "Treasury view" (as it was called here) and audaciously created the spending power to get its workless back to work and its factories humming. —Manchester Guardian.

New Yorkers made a great fuss and hurrah when one elm tree was transplanted on Fifth avenue. That's because there wasn't enough fuss when the original trees were yanked out to make way for sky-scraper roots. — Philadelphia Bulletin.

Public Forum

STOP BRIBERY

Sir,—Will you kindly allow space in your valuable journal to remind the political leaders of the resolution which was passed at a recent Women's Institute Convention, and which was forwarded to them at the time, asking them not to indulge in bribery for election purposes.

This resolution was supported by three hundred delegates and I am sure that the Catholic Women's League in their campaign for moral reform will be wholeheartedly behind such a movement. At present there is a great deal of talk from pulpit, press, radio, etc., on social re-armament. Who other than the leaders of our country ought to set the example?

Why not a clean contest this once and a clear conscience for the elected?

I am, Sir, etc.,
A SUPPORTER—IRRESPECTIVE OF PARTY.

CHAIN STORES PROTEST

Sir,—Mr. Morley Smith, President of the Canadian Chain Store Association, has today sent to each member of the Prince Edward Island Legislature a letter directing attention to the discriminatory taxation imposed upon chain stores in Prince Edward Island.

A copy of this letter is attached.
CANADIAN CHAIN STORE ASSOCIATION.

April 26, 1939

Dear Sir:

May I, on behalf of members of the Canadian Chain Store Association who operate stores in Prince Edward Island, direct your attention to a situation that is harmful to their business and therefore opposed to the interests of Prince Edward Island consumers who are customers of chain stores?

I refer to the special tax of $1,000.00 a year imposed on chain stores doing business in Prince Edward Island. This tax was first imposed by amendment to the Provincial Statutes in the closing days of the 1936 session of the Legislature, and was passed before any opportunity had been given to this Association or the individual members affected to discuss it with the Government. The result is that a chain store in Prince Edward Island must pay, in addition to other local taxes, an extra tax of $1,000.00 which is not paid by a merchant in the same business who operates only one store.

May I assure you that chain stores are willing to pay all taxes that are not of a discriminatory nature, and only ask that they be allowed to compete freely with other merchants for the patronage of Prince Edward Island's consumers. You will agree that taxes imposed upon retail business must be recovered in the prices of goods sold to the ultimate consumer, and that, as long as two merchants in the same line of business are taxed on the same basis, neither is given a competitive advantage. If, however, one merchant is required to pay a tax which is not imposed on his competitor, the tax becomes a handicap to his ability to serve the consuming public. Indirectly, it becomes a restriction on the freedom of the consumer to deal with the merchant of his choice.

It is also pertinent to point out that, under the wording of the Act, a chain-store organization operating three stores in Prince Edward Island but none elsewhere is exempt from the special tax, while a similar organization operating only one store on the Island but three or more elsewhere is subject to it. Thus the tax becomes a barrier to the establishment of new business in the Province and a penalty on those companies which made investments in the Province some years before the tax was first imposed.

Discriminatory taxation of this nature, you will perhaps agree, is open to serious objection in the first place, it is against the interest of the consumer because it tends to increase the cost of living. Secondly, in so far as the tax decreases the business of the chain stores, it decreases their ability to furnish employment for local residents directly in their stores and indirectly through the purchases of local goods and services.

In this connection, it should be pointed out that, while none of the food-retailing chain-store companies of our Association operates a store in Prince Edward Island, several of them are accustomed to make large annual purchases of Prince Edward Island food products. The chain-store method of merchandising is thus of considerable benefit to many producers of your Province in providing them with markets in the other Provinces.

In a series of advertisements that we have been publishing in the daily and weekly newspapers of your Province we have been pointing out to the consuming public the advantages that chain stores have secured for them in the way of improved service and decreased living costs. I believe that if you will inquire, you will find that consumers generally appreciate the chain stores and are unwilling to be deprived of these advantages. In asking you to use your influence to secure abolition of the present discriminatory taxation of chain stores, I am therefore sure that I am advocating a course that will command the approval of the majority of your constituents.

Yours very truly,
MORLEY SMITH
PRESIDENT
CANADIAN CHAIN STORE ASSOCIATION.

MORE BROKEN PROMISES

Sir,—As I listened to Premier Campbell's fifteen plank platform, and his weak excuse for not fulfilling his 1935 promises, it was amusing to note how clever he thinks that he can get away with it. Does he really think he is going to fool the electors of P.E.I. again with promises? It is all right to try and hide behind a microphone and tell the farmers he didn't raise their taxes. What about the farms on or near the pavement? Did he raise their taxes or not? I think behind a corkscrew would make a better hiding place for a man that would make a statement like that. I think he could be well termed the "Hitler" of P. E. I. What we want now is a man that is not afraid to put right ahead of might, and that man in Dr. MacMillan, so come now voters, while the Dr. holds the nose of those 30 useless representatives, including our own little "Hitler," let us administer the medicine of defeat and show them they can not fool all the people all of the time.

The Doctor might have use for camels and bears and jackasses at Cavendish Park after the 18th and he will need those fifteen planks to cage them in. The Grits were afraid to get up on a public platform and meet the Opposition and the electors, so they brought on an election in a hurry, thinking they would catch the Conservatives asleep but, to their surprise the Doctor was wide awake and when they catch him napping the Patriot Grit rooster will crow loud enough to wake him up.

I am, Sir, etc.,
ONE WHOSE TAXES WERE RAISED.

King George The Sixth

Chapter Twenty-One

"Youth is the proper time for love."
—Granville.

When the stormy years of the World War had passed into history, the little girl of Glamis Castle had blossomed into a beautiful young lady of nineteen years. Her sense of sympathy and self sacrifice for duty had been aroused by the sights which she had observed during that world struggle for the preservation and progress of civilization, with some of the tragic happenings of the masses actually crossing the threshold of her own home since four of her brothers fought on Flanders Fields and one was killed at Loos. Then again, her own home had been converted into a hospital for wounded soldiers and she had seen sights that were never to be forgotten. Naturally, such a series of events between the age of fourteen and nineteen were bound to produce certain affects, and when the World War was over, she was a serious and thoughtful young lady with a keen understanding of humanity, with the rare quality of being able to unconsciously blend gaiety with seriousness.

Although she was a member of one of the oldest and most popular families in the land, yet she was recognized in all ranks of English and Scottish society on account of her own brilliant personality and disposition. This aided her entrance into society and after the World War, she had more friends than most girls of her own age and position. She appeared at many big social and public functions in London, usually being chaperoned by her mother, Lady Strathmore, or her sister, Lady Elphinstone. Although the family had a beautiful Adam home at 20 St. James' Place in London, now and again she spent much of her spare time in the environment of her childhood and youngre days at St. Paul's Waldenbury and Glamis Castle, with occasional visits to her maternal grandmother's home at Villa Capponi which as not far from Florence in Italy. In this manner she joined in all the functions that marked the social life of the post-war years of 1919.

In 1920, Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, now Queen Elizabeth and wife of the King, was forced to give up the beautiful London home at 20 St. James' Place and she obtained another residence at 17 Bruton Street. There were more and more entertainments, with the highlight being the visit of the present King to her home in Glamis Castle, where on several occasions Princess Mary had joined the happy circle of young friends. In 1921, she began to attract the close attention of everyone, including the late King George the Fifth and Queen Mary, particularly when she proved one of the most popular bridesmaids at the marriage of Princess Mary which took place that year. Except for her visit to Paris to meet her dear friend Diamond Hardinge, she was forced to remain close to her mother who was very ill throughout the year and since Lady Strathmore was an invalid at that time, Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon was the hostess at Glamis Castle where there was a continual coming and going of that Queen Mary and her second guests. It was during this time son, the Duke of York, now King George the Sixth, came for an extended visit. Towards the end of 1922, she became the centre of much public interest and discussion because her name was often linked with that of the King's secon son.

(continued next week)

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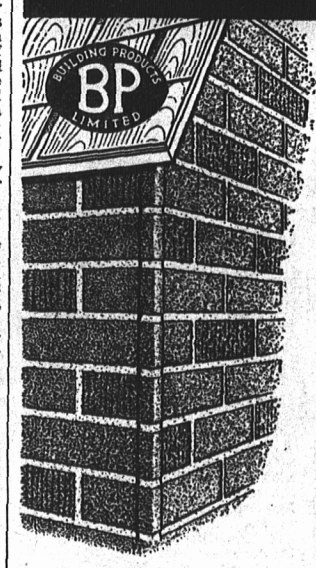

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