

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1940.

Mr. King's Volte Face

Our evening contemporary quotes the Toronto Star (Liberal) as stating, apropos of the British air training scheme: "Everyone knows that the issue in 1938 was not whether British airmen should train in Canada, but whether the training should be under the control of the Canadian Government as Mr. King contended it should be, and as it is now."

Control Of Rentals

Here is what Mr. E. C. Mears has to say in the Montreal Gazette on the War Time Control of rentals: "Rentals control has thus far been confined almost entirely to the areas in which a large floating population occasioned by war activity has created a temporary shortage of housing accommodation, but it is indicated now that the Rental Administrator, Mr. Justice William M. Martin, may have his jurisdiction or control extended by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. Control has been established in such centres as Halifax, Ottawa, Kingston, Barrie (near Camp Borden) and Parry Sound, but the board has been giving consideration to applications from various municipal bodies to have the control extended to their communities, and it is expected that when Mr. Justice Martin returns to Ottawa after spending Thanksgiving at his home in Regina, a move will be made to extend the control. The Controller has now completed personal surveys of the situation in Parry Sound, Barrie and is at present in Brandon. He will return to Ottawa to consult with Chairman Hector McKinnon and the members of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board before going on to Halifax. In many ways Halifax presents the most difficult problem that the Rent Controller faces."

Britain's Farmlands

Not the least among Britain's daily mounting war efforts is the intensification of its agricultural front. Under the authority of the County War Executive Committees, of whom there are sixty-two, every farm in the country has been subjected to a compulsory inspection. Each farm has been rated as "farmed well," "moderately" or "badly," and if "moderately" or "badly" the reasons have been set down. As a result of the committees' findings "100,000 acres of ill-farmed land—but not so ill-farmed that it cannot be made to yield more in the next two years—have been placed in better hands." And the London Times says "it would be a pity if the wartime supervision of agricultural lands in the nation's interest is ever given up."

Among accomplishments to date are these:—Ploughing up throughout the country shows a gain of 2,000,000 more acres of arable, and progress is being made toward another 2,000,000; farmers have been guaranteed prices and a market for their main products; preference is given to milk production over the high-grade meat the English cannot afford in wartime; 2,500,000 persons are receiving free milk, and consumption of non-meat foods is encouraged; tractors and land girls, with a great variety of amateur help for harvest, have been provided; and there is a "most encouraging increase in silos—a million tons of silage will be made this year."

land for the national welfare cannot be realized." Britain's present land tenure system is declared worn out, and experience during the war, it is said, will show not only the urgency of public control, but the need for a more extensive mechanized agriculture. "Neither in war nor in peace can England afford to have the national estate misused," it is asserted. Lord Winterton, a man of moderate views, recently declared: "The average Englishman has not the least idea of our scandalous amount of uncultivated land." With regard to the state's acquisition of land, it is not yet widely known that 4,000,000 acres of English soil are under public ownership.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Festival of St. Luke. Harvie's Prince Edward Island Almanac for 1879 gives this as the date on which to expect the first fall of sleet or snow.

"It is the Navy, the British Navy", ever onward and watch for the enemy, that gives us the best news of the sea since the evacuation of Dunkirk. The Italians are truly getting worried.

The Junior Board of Trade can very well play the part here of a Ratepayers Protection Association. Vigilance in this respect as in others more momentous, is the price of safety.

Republicans are indignant that Lindbergh should have intervened in the Presidential election campaign because, though he mentioned no candidate, he plainly indicated he was anti-Roosevelt; and Republicans don't want to be tied to Lindbergh's tail.

When a passenger car of the Canadian National Railways fitted with air-conditioning equipment moves out of the coach yard to take its place in a train it carries from 4,500 to 5,500 pounds of ice. According to the state of the outside temperature, replenishment of ice is necessary at various points during the journey, each requiring from 200 to 1,000 pounds. Transcontinental and international trains operated by the National System are air-conditioned.

It is a serious matter if you are a pianist and injure your finger. Here is the medical certificate sent to the sponsors of Vladimir Horowitz, celebrated pianist, who has been forced to cancel his concert at Newark on November 13: "We have under our care Mr. Vladimir Horowitz who is convalescing from a traumatic tenosynovitis of the flexor digitorum sublimis and profundus muscle at the metacarpophalangeal joint. He is constantly improving, but it is opinion that he needs further medical management before he can resume practicing and playing in concerts. We do not feel that this can be accomplished before January 15, 1941."

Three provinces have now decided to make the teaching of democracy part of the elementary and grade school curriculum. In Saskatchewan, pupils in public schools will begin the day by saluting the flag and singing the National Anthem. At the conclusion of the day's studies pupils will sing "O Canada." In New Brunswick, Dr. Peacock, director of Educational Services plans to make the whole people democracy-conscious, while Dr. A. S. McFarlane, Chief Superintendent of Education says "the greatest responsibility of the teachers is to see that the pupils understand the meaning of democracy." In Quebec a course in citizenship, almost along the same lines as that which will be added to the curriculum of Saskatchewan elementary schools, has been taught in schools for the past two or three years, but plans are now being made for its further development and expansion.

At the start of this war it was decided that all units and all men on active service should wear similar uniforms. Canadian Active Service Force battle dress was set as the standard, even for lieutenant-colonels. Possibly because battle dress is more useful than ornamental, however, for "walking out" purposes many units have adopted distinguishing marks. For the most part this has resulted in a rash of colored hats. The Highland regiments are easy to distinguish, even when wearing battle dress, by their tams. The Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps, not to be outdone, have blossomed forth in their own colors—maroon and black. Their colored caps are a little more fancy than some of the others—they carry a gold stripe around each color. The McGill Contingent of the Canadian Officers Training Corps has caught the bug, and, according to reports will soon dazzle the populace in a red and white creation. Royal Canadian Air Force students who have passed the first part of their training course are allowed to wear a white insert in their blue caps. Then, besides caps, there are the various shoulder patches of different units.

The Federal Department of Justice has "passed the buck" to the Attorney-General of Ontario over the flag question. Hamilton got quite worked up over the refusal of a number of children in the public schools to salute the flag, and the matter was referred to the Toronto Board of Control for their advice. Definite action was postponed when the board was informed that Crown Attorney George Ballard had outlined the situation in a communication to the Department of Justice at Ottawa, asking the department's advice, as to the action that should be taken against the children's parents, most of whom are members of the outlawed Jehovah's Witnesses sect. In a letter to the Board of Control the Department of Justice said "The refusal of certain school children to salute the flag and sing the National Anthem appears to be purely a matter of discipline." The department observed that the question was "no doubt" be considered by the Ontario Education Department. As the Department had already done so, and sought the advice of the Attorney-General, who in turn asked the Department of Justice's advice it would appear that the "Jehovah Witnesses" so far have had the best of the game.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Now the doctors are agreed that worry is the cause of stomach ulcers, which gives us something additional to worry about. — Detroit Free Press.

Bulgaria has decreed death for chronic profiteering. Such drastic treatment ought to make it difficult to build up profiteering to the chronic level. — New York Sun.

Count among one of the saddest figures of the war former Queen Geraldine of Albania, who has been fleeing from the wrath of war for months on end. Here is one Croatiankian woman that has largely been gone so far. — Hamilton Spectator.

An elderly negro, testifying in a trial on an accident case, told the court she did not see the collision, although she was a passenger in one of the cars. "I was looking straight ahead and praying," she testified. "I always pray when I get in one of them things and keeps right on praying 'till I gets out."

An account of a lone Dutch airman, of name, wife and family when Nazis bombed and blasted Rotterdam, carrying out nightly "revenge" raids on German centres, is one of those colorful stories of war brings to the surface. However, it is worth being studied by the Nazis. For while in this case a single fighter is concerned, the time will come when those who have suffered as he has suffered will be in a position to give vent to their anger and to make revenge on their persecutors. Only the fact of their weakness today prevents many millions of people in Europe from wreaking their just fury upon Nazi Germany, for innumerable cruelties, atrocities and indignities. The flier in this case is Koene D. Parnment, a Dutch Airline pilot. While he escaped when the Germans—aided by their Fifth Column—destroyed Rotterdam, his home, wife and children were cut off. He fled through France to Spain and finally to England. There he entered into an unique contract with the R.A.F. He enlisted, but with the proviso that he was to fly alone. All he asked was fuel and bombs. — London Free Press.

In these days, when one is called upon to meet so many financial obligations, one of our first objectives should be to maintain friendly relations with our creditors. Quite often when money is scarce, some people are inclined to neglect their creditors. It is business men with whom they have contracted debts: This is not honest—moreover, it is injuring their credit, which at some future time you may wish to make use of. — Oshawa Times.

Thomas Mann, vacationing in Beverly Hills, reminisced of the time when women senators wore to his home in Princeton, dressed in his customary attire—but wearing no socks. "Dr. Einstein," one of Mann's guests asked, "did you forget to put on your socks?" "I'm not wearing any socks," he answered, "because then I never have to worry about getting holes in them." — Leonard Lyons, in New York Post.

Before the war Czecho-Slovakia was noted for the advancement of its women. It had 80 women in Parliament and 1,500 women physicians. Hitler has changed all that. Today Czech girls may no longer attend the high schools, much less the university, and women cannot assume any public office. It is the same in Austria, where Hitler has been touched by the Hitler blight. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

In this time of the breaking of nations, when the claws of the aggressor are outstretched over Europe and there is no shelter save behind the sword, both individuals and peoples are being taught a valiant faith. While the armed forces of the Allies do their duty on a field of battle whose violence is beyond description, those who are at home, front and endure their daily strain and stress, steel their wills and keep the fire of faith alight in their hearts. For without faith, without the proper endurance, persevere, endure, and attain the victory that has come upon us would be without meaning. — Glasgow Herald.

The important point, here, is the fact that Tel Aviv so far from military objectives that the bombing could hardly have been anything other than an indulgence in the lust for death. The city is 200 miles from the British base at Aquaba, and about the same distance from Suez. When Mussolini's bombers brought death to 112 persons at Tel Aviv, including 55 children, injured many more, and made others homeless by fire and destruction, they demonstrated how far war can go in making inhuman brutes of men. — St. Louis Post Dispatch.

Ever chary of enforcing compulsion on people who prize individual freedom, the U.S. Congress has never acted wisely in paying no heed to those who think that compulsory military training should await the outbreak of war. For in a world aflame and with the confagration spreading in unexpected directions, the fool who would wait until his house were afire to begin to prepare to save it from destruction. In these days when the philosophy of force is the only way to escape being overwhelmed by a stronger, but America's best insurance against future attack is, while strengthening herself, to give all possible aid to Britain which is fighting the battle for the freedom which Americans love. The trading of destroyers for bases showed that appreciation of the value of giving aid to Britain was not growing, but it is hoped that as time goes on this aspect of preparedness will come more and more to the fore. — Trinidad Guardian.

It seems clear from all this that there is no shortage of aluminum in the States, nor likely to be any. Why, then, should not U.S. sheets come into Canada free of duty for the manufacture of kitchen utensils here (as they in fact did from 1905 to 1932), thus saving an important Canadian industry, instead of having the utensil manufactured in the States and sent into Canada? If the suggestion to produce would interfere to any extent at all with Canada's or Britain's war

Aerodrome Construction

Commonwealth Air Training Plan By J. A. WILSON, M.E.C. Controller of Civil Aviation ACQUISITION OF LAND

The acquisition of land for aerodromes up to date has involved the purchase of approximately 40,000 acres in every Province of the Dominion. To solve this problem the assistance of the Canadian National Railways was sought. They were under Colonel F. Clarke, Chief Land Surveyor and Property Commissioner, a Dominion wide organization familiar with this work. As soon as an aerodrome was approved for detailed survey, a description of the property required was given to Colonel Clarke and his local Land Agent was instructed to obtain options on it wherever possible.

Nearly every aerodrome involved several properties and it was not always possible to obtain options covering the whole area, but every endeavour was made to obtain options of part of it at least, which would govern a fair price for the remainder to some extent. This has involved an immense amount of work. Over 500 separate options have been secured for the purchase of property and, in addition, another 250 covering the clearance of obstructions such as barns, windmills, within the zoned area, and the right to construct ditches for drainage purposes where necessary.

The value of the property purchased or on which options are still outstanding is over two and a quarter million dollars and an additional fifty thousand dollars has been paid for cleared areas, etc. Leases have been granted on all the properties required for Air Force and Bombing Ranges by the C.N.R. Lands Department as well.

As soon as final approval has been given by the Department of National Defence for the development of any site, these options were taken up, or falling that, an expropriation plan was filed to cover the area required. In no through failure to secure the necessary rights to enter properties in time to permit the contractors to start work.

Lord Lothian

Among the unsung heroes of our times must be numbered the Marquis of Lothian. Lord Lothian took the British Embassy in Washington during the most difficult moment, and has discharged his onerous responsibilities with ease and a rare distinction. It is no exaggeration to say that his Government to expound the policy of his Government to the American people at the beginning of a European war.

That strong and articulate body of political opinion in the United States which founded its policy on the Monroe Doctrine, and maintained its popularity by constantly urging the public to subvert dangerous enterprises and avoid all dangerous responsibilities and vexatious responsibilities and vexatious spread the theory that British propaganda was responsible for drawing the United States into the last war.

A large section of the American press and a considerable proportion of the natural people were therefore eager to hear anything which might favor of British propaganda and quick to suspect any British agent of subterranean activity directed toward getting America into the war. For example, Sir George Paish, a visiting British economist, was treated abruptly by Congress and Senators in Washington for freely expressing the opinion that the United States should take part in the struggle.

Under the circumstances, one might have expected that the British Ambassador would tread with the greatest caution and refrain from all public utterances of a forthright character. He might have been excused for confining his public appearances to social functions and his private utterances to innocuous platitudes required by custom and courtesy. Lord Lothian has done neither of these things. He has spoken frankly and frankly, but his understanding of the conventional patterns of thought prevalent in the United States coupled with his obvious sincerity of genuine liking for the American people, has saved him harmless from criticism.

Lord Lothian has bridged every gap there might have been between the American and British peoples swiftly and surely. His lucid and penetrating speeches have been well received; his ability has been recognized, and his personality appreciated. Largely as the result of his efforts, a basis of close smooth relations between the British and American authorities has been established. Had the United States declared war she could scarcely have been of any assistance to the British cause than she has been. In fact it is doubtful whether the participation of the United States in the war against Germany would have been more of a handicap than an advantage, since there is no front at present on which United effort, or the assistance given to Britain by the United States, no other would think of advocating it. But the evidence seems to be that there would be no interference whatever. If that is so, there would appear to be a good case for reversal of the government's decision arrived at. It is said, against the advice of senior officials that the 27 per cent duty on aluminum sheets should be removed. — Toronto Star.

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.

CITY COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Sir:—I notice in the Report of the City Council Meeting of October 15th, published in Tuesday's Guardian it is stated "Councillor Chandler was of the opinion that the authors of the Civic Affairs' report should have presented it to the Finance Committee of the City Council before having it published."

We would like to correct this erroneous opinion, as a copy of the report was handed personally to His Worship Mayor Holman on Friday October 11th.

We are, Sir, ARTHUR M. CLARK President of the Charlottetown Junior Board of Trade.

The Women Of Britain

(Hamilton Spectator) Like their men folk, the women of Great Britain are fighting valiantly for their hearths and homes and making a tremendous contribution to the national effort. The hundreds of thousands, they have given up lucrative positions in the business world or put aside their kitchen aprons to serve in some of the special auxiliary services.

A review of their manifold activities in this struggle makes for an epic page in the chronicle of British womanhood. They do clerical work and cooking at the large military camps. They work at the Admiralty and other naval establishments, performing a great volume of office work, while some are trained for highly important tasks at decoding and signalling. They serve as air raid wardens in some of the smaller towns. They are found at the aerodromes and other training centres. They drive ambulances and motor trucks. Thousands of them are in the nursing, hospital and first-aid services.

They are on the land, tilling the soil, feeding the stock, milking cows and gathering the harvest. They help the fire-fighters by tending switchboards and serving tea, and warm food while fires are being conquered. Thousands of housewives, who can not leave their homes, do useful work in their own districts by driving motor vehicles, aiding refugees, brewing tea for the troops, caring for old people and invalids during air raids, and saving scrap metal for the making of munitions. Great numbers of others act as kind "aunts" to the many school children evacuated from the cities. With cars, they meet troop trains at night to enable soldiers, returning home on short leave, to reach their loved ones with the least delay. Thousands of women are working in munition factories and aeroplane plants. Many are serving as mail carriers or as conductors of buses. In almost every role, in almost every field of the nation, wherever a man's place can be filled, States troops could be used to advantage.

As a non-belligerent, facilities which might otherwise have been commandeered by the United States Army have been made available to the war effort. Washington has never failed to place obstacles in the way of our adversaries, smooth the path for ourselves, and keep a friendly eye upon our interests. I fear some natty remarks cannot, of course, all be attributed to Lord Lothian, because they spring largely from the natural sympathy existing between two peoples speaking the same language, yet the British Ambassador has made it easier for this sympathy to find tangible expression.

Lord Lothian has had a remarkable career. Like Lord Tweedsmuir, he was with Milner in South Africa, as secretary of the Rhodes Trust, he was a frequent visitor to America. The founder and editor of the Round Table, he has been a keen student of public affairs. As editor of the Daily Chronicle he revealed a fine command of popular expression. In 1916, when he was still Philip Kerr, he became secretary to Lloyd George, and was described by many as the Deputy Prime Minister. He is the eleventh Marquis, and upon succeeding to the title entered the House of Lords and became active in Parliamentary affairs.

His appointment to the senior diplomatic post came as a surprise to many people, because he was not a career diplomat. But the area of open diplomacy brought many distinguished laymen into the ranks of the diplomats, and none, we think, more distinguished than the Marquis of Lothian.

WOMEN HAVE WATCHED FOR MEN DOWN MANY ROADS

Women have watched for men down many roads. Look now upon the dark sea for their sail. Hear in the wind a last despairing cry. Know now the deep tide alters their abodes. Now ebb out westward with their crimson loads. The hills reach up to heaven with dark hands. The seabirds wheel above the crumbling lands; I fear some desperate destiny forebodes. The wing is like a moaning on the night. As of all souls who drowned an sight of land. And on this harkard shore, this final height. Here at this last place where the feet can stand Suddenly I am riven with alarms. O God send back my lover to my arms.

—Florence Hamilton.

STRUCK GOOD BARGAIN

MIDDLEWICH, England.—(CP)—School children in this Cheshire town needed seed potatoes for their wartime allotment. They repaired a farmer's gates in the school workshop and were repaid with a good supply of potatoes.

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The Poet's Corner WOMEN HAVE WATCHED FOR MEN DOWN MANY ROADS Look now upon the dark sea for their sail. Hear in the wind a last despairing cry. Know now the deep tide alters their abodes. Now ebb out westward with their crimson loads. The hills reach up to heaven with dark hands. The seabirds wheel above the crumbling lands; I fear some desperate destiny forebodes. The wing is like a moaning on the night. As of all souls who drowned an sight of land. And on this harkard shore, this final height. Here at this last place where the feet can stand Suddenly I am riven with alarms. O God send back my lover to my arms. —Florence Hamilton.

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