

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)
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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
By Mail in P. E. I. \$4.00 per year, \$2.50 for 6 months, \$1.25 for 3 months, 50c for one month.
City Delivery, \$5.00 per year, \$3.00 for 6 months, \$1.75 for 3 months.
By Mail in Canada and U. S. A. \$5.00 per year, \$3.00 for 6 months, \$1.75 for 3 months.
Saturday Weekly, \$2.00 per year, \$1.00 for 6 months, 50c for 3 months.

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 1940.

The War Situation

There is no disguising the serious nature of the news in yesterday's Guardian, recording the capitulation of the Belgian army on order of King Leopold. The fact that this decision was taken against the unanimous advice of the Belgian cabinet does not affect the issue so far as the Allies are concerned at the present time, Belgium may be able to rally a new army, but in the meantime the strategic advantage lies with the Germans. The northern battlefield is held only by the French and British troops. The number of these forces has not been given but they amount to well over half-a-million men—more than the size of the Belgian army which has capitulated. Already seriously threatened by the Nazi we are driven between them and the bulk of the French army to the south, the prospect of retaining the northern sector is now almost hopeless. Dunkerque, the Channel port on the border between France and Belgium, was the port through which the northern Allied forces were being supplied, and the advance of the German armies to this area has now been opened. Midway between Dunkerque and Boulogne, both under fire or occupation of the Germans—it is difficult to determine which—lies Calais, immediately opposite the British port of Dover. Calais also is under heavy bombardment. In the circumstances, it seems almost inevitable that the French and British forces will have to evacuate the northern front. Even this task, reported to be underway yesterday, is one of great danger and difficulty, but it is being aided by the support of the British Navy. The war now will continue on the southern front, along the Somme and Aisne rivers and the Magnot Line. Last night's despatches indicated that the French were attacking vigorously on sections of this area.

It is important to bear in mind that the collapse of Belgium and the loss of the Channel ports, serious as these reverses undoubtedly are, constitute but one phase of the war that is now in progress. France and Britain remain indomitable. The Germans, if they succeed in consolidating their present gains, have the choice of two strategic moves. They may concentrate in a drive southward towards Paris, or attempt to invade Great Britain. It is unlikely that both objectives will be undertaken simultaneously. For either emergency, the Allies are grimly prepared. If the Nazi juggernaut attempts to roll through southern France, it will be at a sacrifice which even Hitler may well hesitate to make. The great body of the French army remains intact, and there is no question as to their determination to fight every inch of the ground. An invasion of the United Kingdom, on the other hand, presents obstacles even greater to the enemy. Armoured battleships are no easy prey and the effectiveness of the British Navy has already been demonstrated against both air and naval attacks. If the North Sea and English Channel become the main centre of fighting in the next few days, there is reason to believe that they will prove to be Hitler's Trafalgar.

These observations, of course, are subject to conditions prevailing at the time of writing. The pace at which war history is being written is too rapid for generalization. It is possible that a portion of the northern sector may continue to be held by the Allies. But we must prepare for the worst, and realize that at no period in the history of the British Empire has the situation been more serious. This fact itself has worked like a tonic on the British people; their whole manpower and resources are now engaged in the struggle, and there is no sacrifice which they are not prepared to make to achieve victory.

With regard to King Leopold's conduct in ordering the capitulation of the Belgian army, later news indicates that it was dictated by necessity. He is a German prisoner. Even physical torture would not be beyond the Nazi technique in dealing with a captive of his importance. Prime Minister Churchill has wisely refused to comment on Leopold's motives, and until the facts have been revealed there is little that can be said except this: the son of such a father as King Albert of Belgium is entitled to every benefit of doubt as to his courage and loyalty.

Canada's War Effort

The Globe and Mail reports receiving from fifty to one hundred letters daily, besides numerous personal calls, dealing with the subject uppermost in the public's mind. Large numbers of the communications contain information to bear out the argument that vigorous leadership is absent in prosecuting the war. No one can peruse them, says our Toronto contemporary, without appreciating the tremendous pent-up feeling in the country, which can be relieved only by the appearance of driving power concentrated on the struggle for liberty. Without realizing this situation fully, the Government cannot do justice to public demand.

The people want assurance that politics is barred for the duration of the war, both superficially and behind the scenes, and this they cannot have while a party Government is attempting to run things. They will never be reconciled to the thought that national unity exists under political disunity. And they blame Prime Minister King for standing in the way of a consolidated front, because of his avowed opposition to a coalition Government.

The present emergency was not conceived during the election campaign. It is now seen how non-essential are all other matters but pres-

ervation of the right to live in freedom. If Mr. King would broaden his Cabinet, as Mr. Churchill has, by the inclusion of Conservatives, Labor, C.C.F. and Social Credit members, he would do what is needed most to convince the public that he does not place selfish partisanship above winning the war. Until he does this he will be accused of playing politics.

This was the course urged before the election, which was the proper time to act. But the Prime Minister turned a deaf ear to all pleas. He and his party are now undergoing widespread criticism, while there should be a Ministry recognized by the people as containing the ablest men available of all parties. The effect of Cabinet reconstruction on the national morale would be immeasurable.

The Testing Time

Urging the King Government to greater effort to meet the existing situation, the Winnipeg Free Press (Liberal) says truly:

"No preconceived ideas, no partisan or departmental prejudices or loyalties must stand in the way of the effort. Every man's work must now be subjected to acid tests. Every Cabinet Minister's reputation will stand or fall by the results produced in the next few weeks and this includes the Prime Minister himself. Every public servant, every member of our permanent armed forces who up to now have been the expert advisors of their political chiefs, will come under fresh and exacting scrutiny. No considerations of seniority or past achievements should keep a man in his job a day past the moment when he shows himself unable to meet the widened conceptions of his duty imposed upon him by the break-through in France.

"If new measures are found inadequate, new men must be found to carry on. The nation will accept neither hesitation nor inadequacy. The fate of the Government, despite its vast majority, depends upon the way in which it meets the harsh circumstances of the hour."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Since the beginning of the second quarter of 1940 Canada has shipped 13,446 head of cattle weighing 700 pounds or more, other than dairy cows, to the United States, or 25.9 per cent of the quarterly quota allotment of 51,720 head.

Charles II born this date, 1630. He made an alliance with Holland and Sweden which he broke by making a secret treaty with France to which he sold Dunkirk. He was popular as he was the King of the Restoration after the stern regime of Cromwell.

In this week's issue of the Commercial Intelligence Journal there is carried in detail a report prepared by the Industrial Research Branch, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, showing the position held in world trade by the Scandinavian countries.

The war has led to an increased demand in the West of England for canned herring and already several contacts have been made between importers and new Canadian sources of supply. The most popular pack of canned herring is one with plenty of thick, bright red tomato sauce.

The use of a newly developed oxygen mask has resulted in the discovery that inhalation of oxygen in high concentrations produces abatement of intense heart pain. Oxygen, in proportions ranging from 80 to 100 per cent, gave complete relief in severe cases in which large doses of narcotics and sedatives—the usual treatment—failed. Continued success with the strong oxygen treatment would give physicians a powerful weapon to combat two of the most painful and serious diseases, coronary thrombosis, a blocked artery, and angina pectoris, an acute "chest pang", due to spasm of the systemic arteries, usually in connection with heart disease. A report telling of striking benefits obtained by this method was made in the Journal of the American Medical Association by Dr. Edward W. Boland of Los Angeles, who is associated with St. Vincent's Hospital and the University of Southern California School of Medicine.

Solitary reading is comparable to solitary drinking, Professor Mortimer J. Adler of the University of Chicago, author of "How to Read a Book," told members of the American Booksellers Association at their annual convention. Professor Adler advised the booksellers to take the initiative in developing reading groups to read and discuss the same books. "Solitary reading is not as much fun as bookish conviviality," he said. "There is too little talking about books with others who have read the same books. I say a great pleasure and a great source of fruitfulness comes from reading books with others and discussing them. The variety of approaches to the same book opens up understanding." Professor Adler asserted that reading books was the ideal form of adult education, for which he said he appreciated the need "because as a teacher I am deeply aware of the failure of the school system."

One feature in the British coordination of military and industrial mobilization during the protracted period of war by attrition, has been the weeding out among the conscripts and volunteers of those vitally essential to war-time industrial production and sending them back to their jobs. Already the Territorials have been exempted for this purpose, with the following exceptions: Officers, warrant officers or non-commissioned officers serving in an anti-aircraft or coast defense unit, or employed in the army in a service trade corresponding to their civil occupation. In addition to those who are returning to civilian life under the present arrangements, a number of individual Territorial army men have been released on applications made by government departments on behalf of firms engaged on work of national importance. Some members of the Auxiliary Air Force and Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve have been similarly released provided always substitutes are found for them to maintain the strength of the respective units. The policy is to conscript the men for the jobs they are best fitted to hold to advantage for the defence of the nation.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The English always lose a war before it is won. But this thing of rallying in the night makes nervous wrecks of fans. — Detroit News.

In a year your grocery, drug and department stores use about 61 pounds of paper-board in filling your orders. They give you about 17 pounds of wrapping paper. The weight about you buy in a year is about 17 pounds of bills, advertising and letters. You have about 15 pounds of magazines and books. — Address by R. K. MacBarnett.

The new House of Commons embraces the following: Lawyers, seventy-six; business men, forty-eight; farmers, thirty-seven; doctors, eighteen; teachers, nine; civil and mining engineers, nine; insurance agents, seven; clergy, four; publishers, journalists, druggists, municipal engineers, etc., each; housewife (Mrs. D. W. Nielson, North Battleford); optometrist, butcher, architect, mortician, accountant, advertising executive, — Sherbrook Record.

Mr. Woodring, United States War Minister, announces that British aircraft can now buy the latest type of warplanes from the United States. And it is said that by the end of 1940 America will be turning out 40,000 planes a year. Don't cheer too soon. We can be grateful for this gesture, sympathetically from America. But we should not buy warplanes there. We should build them here. In 1938 America produced 4,675 planes. If her aircraft industry in 1940 produces 12,000 in two years, the purchaser is going to get bad work as the result of a rush job. — London Daily Express.

Thousands of Dutch and Belgian women and children, without possessions, without homes or help, have found momentary refuge in Great Britain in the last few days. They are the first tragic backwash of an invading army. As President Roosevelt said, his shocker, and angered the people of the United States. The British and French people with grief and anxiety in their hearts, have opened their arms to these refugees, and when another invasion struck Belgium a quarter of a century ago. But the British and French are in a position now to give adequate help to these refugees. In London they are being housed temporarily beneath the grandstands of the huge Wembley Stadium, where they will face discomforts and hardships which some of the same dangers which made them flee their homes. Any month, any day, the bombing planes may appear over British soil. The British and French are making a desperate effort to conserve their supplies of food and clothing; they will need them in the desperate months ahead. We in America will do our best to help them. The Red Cross call for a \$100,000 fund for war relief. But if we were wholly consistent in our desire to help the people of Holland and Belgium, and the Allied people as well, we could also take some of these women and children into sanctuary here. The immigration quotas from Holland and Belgium amount to 4,500 a year, and only a fraction of each has been used. It would be an immeasurable relief to the British and French to be able to send at least a few hundred of these refugees to the Low Countries to live in their own homes and countries until their homes and countries are restored. It would be only a tithe of the debt that we, in this country, owe to Amsterdam, owe to Holland. It would be a great tribute to people of Belgium, who have endured far too much undeserved misery already. — New York Times.

This is the time for each householder in Canada to lay plans for his own private war in which the enemy is "the Fly," the Health League of Canada advises. One reason for the success with which the pestiferous insect resists attacks upon him is his habit of making up the fight each year without warning and before he is detected. A good way to wreck his plans at this time is to spring clean the yard, and every other weeding portion of the home, as vigorously and thoroughly as the housewife cleans the interior. Garbage cans might be given a wash with strong disinfectant, with advantage. The household involved. No rubbish or garbage should be allowed to collect, and where manure is used for preparing the garden it should be dug away as soon as possible. Don't forget that the female fly lays her eggs in rubbish and refuse; that the grubs hatch out in a few days and shortly afterward burrow into the earth to undergo their metamorphosis. Don't give them any encouragement or help in doing so. Many people still look on the fly as only a mild nuisance, chiefly annoying by his habits of buzzing and hickling. Those used things are nothing! If one has microscopic eyes, capable of seeing the disease germs, which the flies around and distribute during a single day, he would take a different view of the enemy. It may be permitted to mention only one of the fly's obnoxious manners: When you see him ramping around in the sugar bowl, he is not just nibbling the grains of sugar. He can't nibble; so he regurgitates a drop of fluid from his tummy to the sugar, then he can suck it up. Not nice is it? The sooner you put up fly screens and get ready with the swatter, the better will be your chance of having a home free from flies. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

A Canadian contractor referred to Wallace R. Campbell to say: "When I met Campbell as chairman of the War Supply Board he was tougher than hell. But he had the confidence of every contractor in Canada. They knew that when they put in a bid, Mr. Campbell considered it from a purely business standpoint and contracts were awarded on the basis of business only. I'm no friend of mine, but I'm telling you the contractors wish he was back there in Ottawa giving some real drive to Canada's war effort." — Clark in The Windsor Star.

It is time that certain political leaders in Canada should cease voicing their unalterable opposition to conscription, since they are

Public Forum

THE PATRIOT EDITORIAL.

Sir,—Those who read the editorial "King Must Not Resign" in the Saturday issue of the Patriot, were witnessing the craftsmanship and selfishness of a paper that is willing to put itself and its party before the Country and Empire.

It is really difficult for an honest, sincere Canadian to see how any newspaper could have the effrontery and deceit to declare Canada's war effort to be magnificent—the greatest possible; but then we must remember that political patronage and the thought of future rewards can, in many cases, drown the reviving surging cries of an anguished conscience.

If our war effort is being prosecuted with the greatest degree of efficiency, speed and vigour possible, it would perhaps be interesting for the Patriot to enlighten the people as to why there are only one hundred and sixty-nine Canadian Airmen in training in Canada—why we have only sixteen tanks, (second hand)—why young men, who have entered for battle are without any modern fighting equipment? Why thousands upon thousands of strong, sturdy young men, would-be recruits are being told to go back home that they are not needed, while at the same time Britain, France, and Australia are mobilizing every last man, woman and child for war duty?

Why is it that 400,000 young Canadians could not have been put under canvas for military training early in May? Why is it that although the Empire and Allied nations have seen the necessity of forming a Coalition Government comprising the best brains and energy in the country, King refuses to do so?

If the Patriot is sincere it should be able to answer these and many other questions pertaining to Canada's war effort that have for some time been puzzling the people of the nation.

The editorial referred to was a masterpiece of evasion. It did not attempt to deny a single statement in Thursday's Guardian but remained content to state that Mackenzie King was given an overwhelming vote of confidence in the general election only two months past, therefore he should not resign! However the Patriot neglects to mention that a large percentage of the independent newspapers, such as the Toronto Globe and Mail, which backed King at that time are now wipers of his resignation. These papers represent the sentiments and wishes of the Canadian people.

Why was Mr. King put back with an increased majority? Because he refused to call Parliament before the election as he was afraid to reveal the corruption, the inefficiency and lack of patriotic spirit that characterizes King's war effort.

The people were kept in the dim darkness of ignorance, but now that Parliament has been called they, the people, see their mistake—they repent—they clamour "King must go!"

As I said in my previous letter, I have no axe to grind, I am affiliated with no particular political party but I say to the Liberal organ that even though it may hurt your pride to go against your leader, the Empire should come first.

Why not put Mr. Ralston in Mr. King's place and give the post of Defence Minister to Senator Meighen, a strong Imperialist and a vigorous veteran of action?

Something must be done and done quickly if the pride of Canada is to be upheld!

I am, Sir, etc. DISGUSTED

THE CHALLENGE

Sir,—At this critical hour it is inspiring and challenging to receive a note of protest and challenge written by a beloved Canadian soldier who gave his life for Canada, Lt.-Colonel John McRae.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders fields the poppies grow Between the crosses, row on row That mark our place, and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing fly, Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead; short days ago We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, Loved and were loved, and now we lie In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe To you from falling hands we throw The torch; be yours to hold it high! If ye break faith with us who die We shall not sleep, though poppies grow In Flanders fields.

When this poem was first published in "Punch" and afterwards quoted by the press throughout the British Empire, some members of the present Parliament were living in the United States; so they may not have known that your correspondent, "Puss-Budget" finds difficulty in seeing the difference between the qualified but inexperienced teacher of yesterday and the qualified, experienced teacher of today. He will find even greater difficulty in denoting the greater knowledge and efficiency in the qualified, though inexperienced teacher of tomorrow. However, he brings up a very good point when he inquires why the better schools almost invariably hire experienced teachers. It would be well to re-

CITY BEAUTIFICATION

Sir,—In this morning's paper appears an appeal from the Mayor for all citizens to try to clean up our beautiful fair City. This is as it should be. We shall without a doubt have a very large number of American tourists with us this summer and it is right we should have Charlottetown looking its best.

One outstanding eyesore is the so-called skating rink of the Prince of Wales College. This monstrosity consisting of a rough board fence, which is built, with no finish to it whatever, though it protrudes the plumb, has already attracted the attention of out of town visitors. The writer has been asked what it is. Is it a stock yard, bull pen or City Pound? Another gentleman

The Poet's Corner

"I HAVE LOVED FLOWERS THAT FADE" Within whose magic tents Rich hues have marriage made With sweet unremembered scents; A honeymoon delight— A joy of love at sight— That ages in an hour— My song be like a flower!

I have loved airs, that die Before their charm is writ Along a lute's delight— Trembling to welcome it. Notes, that with pulse of fire Will claim the spirit's desire, Then die, and are nowhere: My song be like an air!

Die, song, die like a breath, And wither as a bloom, Fear not a flowery tomb, Dread not an airy thorn! Fly with delight thy hence! 'Twas thine love's tender sense To feast, now on thy lily Beauty shall shed a tear. —Robert Bridges.

unable to guarantee that this may not be necessary eventually, if Canada is to go its full share in helping defeat the powers of darkness. One thing can be safely assumed, and that is that if Canadians are convinced that conscription must be adopted in order to enable the country to make the required war contribution, then there will be no objection, despite all that the anti-conscriptionists may say or do. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

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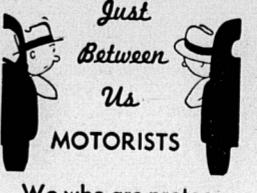
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E. A. FOSTER. Central Drugstore. Sole Agents for the Penslar Family Remedies. YOUR PENSLAR DRUG STORE. We are neither unduly nor prematurely alarmed at the teaching conditions on Prince Edward Island though they are engaged in the teaching profession cannot be taken to mean the members of the P. E. I. T. F. and when did we go on record as saying that a "trial" on hire only experienced teachers had been advocated by this Federation? We did intimate that the advocating for the hiring of such individuals was abroad in the land, and we endeavored to point out that a strict following of such a plan would be impractical. No great brain power is needed to grasp the latter fact.

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