

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1940.

Fox Furs And Farm Products

Following upon this year's reports of higher prices for silver fox skins in the London market, comes news in today's Ottawa despatches which is also very encouraging.

Recently Ottawa announced numerous prohibitions and restrictions on United States goods entering Canada, a move necessitated by war-time conditions and the shortage of foreign exchange.

What it means may be gathered from the fact that during the period from January 1 to September 30 of this year, our U. S. imports included: \$700,840 of potatoes, \$105,414 of sweet potatoes, \$95,658 of green peas, \$140,302 of onions, \$753,581 of lettuce, \$74,875 of cucumbers, \$688,102 of celery, \$111,648 of cauliflower, \$470,100 of carrots, \$419,915 of cabbage, \$64,050 of beets, \$208,046 of green beans, \$139,517 of asparagus, \$163,841 of spinach, \$759,740 of tomatoes, \$442,920 of fresh strawberries, \$319,923 of plums and prunes, \$319,207 of pears, \$222,787 of peaches, \$86,903 of cherries, and \$132,941 of apples.

More Terrible Than War

A number of famous scholars and writers in the United States have combined to put out a book about the war and its aftermath, which gives no comfort to isolationists or appeasers.

The list includes five notable exiles from European tyrannies, Nobel prize-winners, editors, university presidents, writers. They are interested in considering the shape of things to come; but they preface the discussion by putting aside as out of the question the making of peace with Hitler.

A High Achievement

Many distinguished names are mentioned in connection with the post of British Ambassador at Washington, made vacant by the lamented death of Lord Lothian. What is desirable and necessary in his successor is the same talent for making friends and inspiring confidence as the deceased diplomat possessed to a unique degree.

Sirois Report Snags

The Montreal Gazette sees snags ahead for the Federal-Provincial Conference on the Sirois Report. "There is," it says, "too much optimism in the proposition that because the provincial governments have expressed their willingness to participate in the conference, such willingness implies a general disposition to accept the Commission's findings."

Manitoba, vigorously supported by Winnipeg newspapers, backed also by the political groups which joined Mr. Bracken recently in forming the present coalition government. There is a very general impression that Premier King called his January conference with an eye on Mr. Bracken and upon this western movement.

The far-reaching constitutional readjustments proposed by the Commission are meeting with some favor in the industrial provinces, says the Gazette, but this favor is limited largely to non-political fields and to non-partisan individuals.

EDITORIAL NOTES

King George VI is forty-five today—long may his lum reek.

The Churches and other organizations acting Santa Pals will be now scanning their lists lest any poor child be overlooked by Santa Claus on Christmas morning.

Evidently the Prime Minister is taking grave note of the differences in the provinces over the Sirois report, and seeking ways and means of inducing the whole line to accept the main recommendations, especially with regard to financial arrangements.

The privilege of acting as hosts to soldiers now in training at Debert and other parts of the Maritimes for the Christmas holidays is open to all our citizens. The list must be completed early next week and all interested should phone Mr. Graham Rogers today if possible at the Travel Bureau office, which is open until five o'clock.

Prime Minister Menzies has announced Australia will send a free gift of 10,000 tons of wheat to Greece. The announcement was made on the same day Australian growers were promised an increase of five cents a bushel in their guarantee under the Federal stabilization scheme, which is designed to give security to the industry and to Australian economy during and after the war.

Still another outlet for surplus wheat. Suggestions that the surplus production of Australia could be converted into power-alcohol were made by Mr. A. J. Allen, a South Australian businessman before the Power Alcohol Committee appointed by the Federal government. He said it would be possible to convert wheat or other cereals into 65 per cent alcohol at a cost of not more than 18 cents a gallon. Wheat would yield 2 1-4 gallons a bushel.

Ration cards will be issued to owners of poultry in Britain at the beginning of the new year, placing the birds on a controlled diet. The Ministry of Agriculture has ordered a census of backyard livestock. The cards for feed will be of two kinds—for persons keeping at least twelve birds and those keeping thirteen to fifty. It was decided to ration hens, ducks and other poultry because of a scarcity of foodstuffs. The owners will be asked to form clubs in order to pool their resources.

George Washington, First President of the United States, and "Father of his country," died this date 1799. On the outbreak of the European war in 1793 he issued a proclamation of neutrality, a friendly act to Britain, as he had made an alliance with France in 1778. He set a precedent by refusing nomination for a third term; yet another European war has proved opportune for his thirty-first successor, the thirty-second President to break that precedent: "To prepare for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace."

The December issue of the Canadian Geographical Journal is devoted to the story of the Canadian Red Cross. The subject of Organization is handled by Mr. Jackson Dadds; War Requirements by Dr. Fred W. Routley; Women's Work by Mrs. Wallace Campbell, O.B.E.; Women's Voluntary Service Corps by Miss Adelaide M. Plumpre; and the Junior Red Cross by Miss Jean E. Brown. The articles are profusely illustrated and the cover design is a replica of the first Red Cross flag ever flown in Canada.

On Monday Toronto University was to confer the honorary degree of doctor of laws upon the Marquis of Lothian, British Ambassador to Washington, the Hon. J. P. Moffat, U.S.A. Minister to Ottawa, Air Marshal W. A. Bishop, and Lieut-Governor Matthews of Ontario. They all have had distinguished careers in their respective professions, the first and last already being I.L.D.'s and the Air Marshal, a graduate of the Royal Military College, having earned the V.C., D.S.O., and bar, and D.F.C. Now, alas, the ceremony will have to proceed with Lord Lothian in absentia.

Some of the War Services Department's examining physicians, who were issued cheques to pay for their examinations of men called for military training, refused to accept the remuneration. "I served in the last war but am too old to do the same in this one," one doctor said. "So the least I can do to help win 'is to offer my services to the Government free of charge." The department said other physicians had turned over their cheques to wartime charities. All Canadian medical practitioners were appointed examining physicians under the compulsory military training plan, but only the few sacrificed their fees.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Canada's war effort would be all the more efficacious and effective if we had more bands in action. It is suggested we have as many as we did not want patriotic music and plenty of flags in sight. They are essential in war-making on a national scale in the attitude toward France that is not the official view of Canada. — Peterborough Examiner.

Ottawa's fine new hotel is to be called The Lord Elgin on suggestion of Premier King, whose own name some wanted to attach to it. A letter appeared in the Ottawa Journal, and is being reproduced in other newspapers, suggesting that the proper nomenclature of the new hotel is with a soft "g" as in "gin". Protests are already being voiced in public country and by people from Elgin in Scotland who point out that the "g" is hard, and that Elgin is an Americanism — as it is. — Toronto Star.

The Toronto Public Library is the only one in Canada to possess a microfilm camera and a projector, and work on this most modern development in the publication field occupies the time of a librarian who is specializing in it. Thus the Toronto public library is in the forefront in serving the needs of the citizen by means of revolutionary technique which is proving invaluable to scholars and research workers, and in preserving literature for all time. — Toronto Star.

Announcement by Brigadier H. F. McDonald, head of the Pensions Board of Canada, that men who suffer lasting injury from war attacks are being treated as merchant seamen. Some were treated as if they were injured in the merchant services, will receive general approval. They also serve who stand and wait," says Milton in a memorable line. How greatly do the officers and seamen on merchant ships contribute to the welfare of the nation during wartime, carrying food and munitions and keeping alive the trade of the Empire. — Vancouver Province.

London was beginning to get seriously behindhand in grappling with the accumulated arrears of air raid raids. However, since 5000 United States bombers were sent to the War Office set to work to supplement the overtaxed resources of the local authorities, a marked improvement has been noticeable. Holes and other obstructions to roadways that had stood for many days are now at last being cleared and the rubble being removed. The track of the bomb are being expeditiously removed. Londoners have good reason to acknowledge that the British are doing their best in repairing the traffic routes and generally tidying the face of the city even though there is no respite from the air raids. — Daily Telegraph and Morning Post (London).

There will still be an Italy if we win. There will certainly not be a Fascist Italy. The Fascist leaders cast covetous eyes upon the Mediterranean sea, and they have their eyes on the Brenner — that great pass between Italy and Austria. They did not want the Germans as allies, but they would have been quite right. For the Brenner is not a pass so much as a saddle, over which runs a double railway line and a motor road. It is a narrow strip of land over which there is nothing to prevent the Germans from walking over it whenever they wish. Therefore, Mussolini's policy of wanting to make the Mediterranean an Italian lake has only resulted in the German road Fascist Italy is as much at the mercy of Germany as Vichy France. It is a tragedy — a tragedy of the first order — that the horrible error of trusting Hitler's word that he will give them what they want rather than our word that we will give them what we can. — London Listener.

In these serious times it is refreshing to find a woman writing to a newspaper and protesting against the policy of putting small boys in long pants. Her argument is that little boys should not more be made to wear long trousers than men should be put in short ones. The lady seems to have something to say. It is a curious contradiction usually like to keep their children young-looking as long as possible so that they themselves will not be regarded as being older than they are, yet there are mothers who dress their boys in full-length trousers when they are still in the primary school. The girl who has written us escaped it — when young boys had to display long curls hanging over their shoulders and wear little bows in their hair. The mothers loved these things and gushed over the little darlings, but our guess is that the girl who has written us had had any say in the matter would have snipped off his curls and torn the bows in pieces. The nation, yet it is one that stirs some mental speculation. A boy in the adolescent stage is usually terribly self-conscious when he emerges with long pants into the streets among his chums, especially if they have not yet suffered that inflection. There must be a first in everything and we venture to suggest that there should be a definite age at which a boy should graduate from shorts to long pants, in which case his attire would become a badge of maturity rather than a sign of immaturity. The most plausible explanation of this curious situation is that the Nazis, having won much of Europe by following the old principle of "divide and rule," are seeking to gratify themselves after the same fashion. Political differences in Rumania only cement the German hold on the nation; suspicion among the Balkan states compels them to the same end in the broader field. In any case, this method can only mean continued domination by Germany and her neighbors, while at the same time furnishing an illuminating commentary on the nature of the structure which Nazism seeks to rear in the world.

Great Britain admittedly did not send as large an army as it could have sent. But all through the winter the cry was constantly heard in France that the line was overrunning and the French themselves actually demobilized two classes of conscripts almost on the eve of the German offensive. Yet the most plausible explanation of this curious situation is that the Nazis, having won much of Europe by following the old principle of "divide and rule," are seeking to gratify themselves after the same fashion. Political differences in Rumania only cement the German hold on the nation; suspicion among the Balkan states compels them to the same end in the broader field. In any case, this method can only mean continued domination by Germany and her neighbors, while at the same time furnishing an illuminating commentary on the nature of the structure which Nazism seeks to rear in the world.

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The People's Money

"War expenditures," says The Windsor Star, "will be put where it belongs, in the hands of the people, with the setting up of a Parliamentary committee, which will be suggested by Hon. R. B. Hanson. The acceptance of the proposal by Prime Minister King indicates a change in his attitude toward Parliament." One should like to be able to share the Star's ready and seemingly whole-hearted confidence in Mr. King's "changed attitude." But there have been so many disappointments in the correlation of promises and achievements under Canada's one-party, patronage-ridden War Administration, as to suggest that the Star's confidence in Mr. King's "changed attitude" is to be regarded as a very good thing. While patriotic committees continue to function in the constant hope, it is to be feared little good can be accomplished by an investigating committee in Parliament.

The Saguenay Story

More details about the Saguenay story are now available. They reveal that the men of the Saguenay behaved as all expected, with bravery, coolness, and resource. It is not easy to behave calmly under such circumstances. The little destroyer had been struck by a torpedo, a raging fire had broken out forward, the vessel was down by the bow and her foremast snapped off, was hanging by guy wires over the forecastle. With the possibility of a second torpedo to follow the first, with parts of the ship a raging furnace, and with fire threatening the magazine, the men of the Saguenay kept their heads.

Each man who escaped the explosion found a job to do. Some tackled the flames; others removed ammunition from danger; others batted their way through the fire to open the flood valves, in the engine room stokers kept the vessel under way. It was a magnificent piece of work, the men succeeded and brought the destroyer, after a weary struggle of more than four days, into a British port.

The skipper, Commander George Miles, looks just the way a destroyer captain should look. He had a "bed-bug" appearance, relieved by a friendly grin and a twinkle in his eyes. He looks like a real sailor man, the kind of man to be found in a tight spot. The story of the Saguenay indicates that he was just that kind of a man. Indeed, it is a tribute to his leadership that the men protested when the majority of them were removed to a British ship. They wanted to stay aboard and help bring the Saguenay to port. And it is typical of Miles that he should meet their protests with: "We may stop another of those things and every extra man means another bunch of flowers, and you know how expensive they are."

Balkan Bedlam

The Iron Guard excesses in Rumania seem to be following the standard pattern of such outbreaks, with a purge of the purgers. At least, the Iron Guard police have been ordered to take a "house-to-house" search for the Iron Guard. The expression on the part of Vice-Premier, Boris Johnson, constituted her most important single source of supply.

Britain's Sources

Thus, Britain's sources of supply remain open. The oil of the Middle East is strategically placed for war-fare in this part of the world. — The Poet's Corner.

GREEK ANTHEM

Oh, divinely reared,
By the light of thy eyes
And the light of thy sword.
From the graves of our slain
Shall thy valor prevail
We greet thee again—
Hail, Liberty! Hail!

Dehorning Calves

Horns, at one time, were a necessary part of a cow's equipment. They were necessary for protection, and under present modern methods of management, cows do not need horns. Horns may be taken off when the calf is a week old without any loss and not too much discomfort to the calf. Do the job of dehorning as soon as the horn buttons can be found: clip the hair around this tiny protrusion and place a ring of vasoline on the lower side to prevent any drainage into the eye itself. Roughen the spot gently where the horns are to grow with a stick or caustic potash and rub it on until the skin is a distinct pink. Caution: Use gloves on your hands and let no liquid from the caustic stick get into your eyes or the calf's eyes—its dangerous.

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PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondence of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the contents of correspondence.

ERSATZ HEAT

Sir—Attention all scientists: To better the empire's war effort, consider the coal supply, and release labor for more urgent industrial and military needs, why not solve the home heating problem by inventing an apparatus which could be hooked to an ordinary radio loud speaker, with the object of extracting hot air from words? The following formula could be used: On very cold, sub-zero days, keep the radio well away from inflammable articles. For lesser degrees of heat, tune Gvda, Goebbels, Lord Haw-Haw, Mussolini, etc., etc. Manufacturers of heating equipment could divert their time to the production of war supplies, with the war over, and the air, they would no longer be polluted with hot air, they would again be able to return to their normal trade and help the country, and not jeopardizing their peace time future. So, science set busy! I am, Sir, etc., W. P. RICHARDS, Dunstaffnage, R.R. No. 3.

Oil—Vital Resource In Peace And War

Because recent events in the course of the war have brought certain of the world's petroleum resources to the forefront of the news, the Monthly Review of the Bank of Nova Scotia for November-December presents a broad survey of the world's oil resources and of the international trade in oil products. While it is pointed out that the prospect of such a survey cannot be a "neat balance-sheet" showing the petroleum potential of the oil-producing countries, the conclusion is reached that Britain's relative superiority in available oil supplies appears likely as the war wears on.

The heavily industrialized countries of Europe, and particularly the present belligerents, lack domestic oil production. Indeed, the only great industrial nations which also are major oil producers are the United States and Russia. Consequently, a substantial part of the world's oil normally goes to Europe. From the rich fields of Venezuela to the refineries of Arabia and Curaçao and thence across the Atlantic flows the largest stream. The second greatest oil route is from the United States to Europe and the third through the Mediterranean from the Middle East—also reaches its terminus in Europe. With the single exception of the Dutch East Indies, the major oil exporters normally find their leading markets in that continent.

"Strategically," says the Review, "the distribution of oil imports was a relatively favorable one for Britain when war came." Her reopportunity of such products was placed at 13 million bbls, and her output of crude oil at only 43 million bbls. Together, this domestic production accounted for about 30 per cent of consumption. Italy, lacking coal, has no resources for a large synthetic production, though she is striving desperately to increase the output of industrial alcohol from agricultural products and to increase the small oil output of Albania.

It is not known how much the production of synthetic fuels has been increased since the war began. However, it is known that they have been able to obtain from the accumulated reserves of occupied countries. It is not, however, that the enemy countries face — from a long-run point of view — a very difficult situation particularly in regard to be useful to them, the industrial life of the occupied countries cannot be maintained. In that year continental Europe (excluding Russia) consumed something more than 200 million barrels of petroleum products. The local production of crude oil amounted to very little more than a quarter of this amount while the addition of the output of related fuels (perhaps 17 million bbls) and of the whole of Russian exports (about 1 million bbls) would account for only some 80 million barrels.

The Poet's Corner

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By the light of thy eyes
And the light of thy sword.
From the graves of our slain
Shall thy valor prevail
We greet thee again—
Hail, Liberty! Hail!

THE TWO MACS

Druggists

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Say to Your Grocer I Want BRAHMIN ORANGE PEKOE TEA You will enjoy its superior quality

MOTHER PUNISHED MANCHESTER.—(CP)—A mother who left her five-year-old daughter alone in her house for six days only visiting her once a day to feed her, was sentenced to six months in prison for wilful neglect.

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