THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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Secretary: Lieut. Col. D. A. MacKinnon D.S.O.
Editor and Managing Director J. S. Burnett, F.J.I.
Associate Editors: Frank Walker, and Lieut. Ian A. Burnett, R.C.N.V.R. (On Active Service)

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

MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1943.

Hell's Pavement At Ottawa

We have it on reasonably good authority that "Hell is paved with good intentions," and surely it is not "the intentions" of the Federal Government to consign this province thither next winter. Yet that is what may be gathered by the reply, carried by Canadian Press, of the Hon. Mr. Michaud to the Hon. Dr. Cyrus MacMillan. The Minister of Transport said: "The Government *intend* to *design* a new car ferry to replace the one which was lost, and *will* call for tenders *when* shipyard facilities are available."

On this slender promise some political appeasers here would have us remain content, forgetful already of what was the outcome of such policy when tried by Mr. Chamberlain. We are pleased, indeed, to see that Dr. Grant, representing King's took his courage in both hands in the House, and told the Government flatly: "The people are determined to have a new car ferry built at once, and we do not want any more procrastination."

That is the kind of urgent advocacy we want, and is a lead that should be followed by our other three representatives, as well as our four Senators. In addition they should rally to their support all the Maritime and other members, and compel the Government to take immediate action, with no more pussyfooting and soothsayings.

It will be noticed that the Minister of Transport boasts the Federal Government has spent $72,000,000 in New Brunswick since the war began. That is equivalent to $12,000,000 every year in the past three years, or at the rate of $2,000,000 per month. Nevertheless he grudges $2,000,000 to prevent us being frozen in and starved; besides preventing our wartime production reaching its market at the time most needed. Let us bear in mind, too, that New Brunswick is largely an agricultural and fishing province like ourselves, but with this outstanding advantage over us—it is open to water transport all the year round, with, in addition, two continental railway services always at its command.

Why should our Provincial Government and M.P.'s remain quiescent when all we hold dear is at stake? The near-30-year-old car ferry, now doing its utmost on our behalf was condemned years ago as having outlived its usefulness yet all the Government at Ottawa is now doing is fiddling, caring naught whether or not we freeze next winter.

According to the Deputy Transport Minister "tenders have *not* yet been let and there has been no mention of price." In other words the "Do Nothing Government" still remains asleep at the switch.

It is time for a change.

"I Was A Scout"

Recently says "London Calling" the BBC held a Radio Jamboree with the co-operation of the Boy Scouts Association.

The value of Scout training is continually being emphasized by men in the Services. Here is a story proving that the tributes paid to Scouting are deserved.

It happened during a test to select potential officers from a party of serving men. A 'secret weapon,' captured from the enemy, had to be conveyed to safety over the border into a neutral country. The 'border' was a deep ravine, down which swept a raging torrent that would be death to a swimmer. The 'secret weapon' was a huge, unwieldy tree-stump, smooth and shiny, as big as a man. The only gear to be found in the vicinity with which a bridge could be built were some pine logs, slippery with rain, and some snow-soaked ropes.

The building of the bridge began, helped by two convenient trees in the ravine, but the ropes with which the men hoped to lash the logs would not hold on the slippery surface, and they were in danger of losing their precious material.

One man stepped forward, took a rope, and with two simple twists fixed the rope to the slippery log. It was hauled across in safety. The bridge was built.

Now came the task of swinging the "secret weapon' to the men who had crossed the bridge and were waiting on the other side. Again the knot expert came forward. He tied several simple-looking knots. 'Timber hitches,' he explained. 'They'll hold.'

They did, and the 'secret weapon' was across. The rest of the party followed and the bridge was demolished just ten seconds before the 'emeny' arrived.

"I suppose you were a lumberjack before the war?" remarked one soldier to the knot expert. "No," came the reply. "I was a Scout."

More Study The Better

As with the Beveridge report, the Marsh "basis of study" for social security is already leading many to instantaneous decisions of the "ham-and-eggs", "pie-in-the-sky" variety; to assume a brand-new heaven and earth is right around the corner. This, of course, is very far from the truth. As the Financial Post points out, the King Administration is not offering Canada a Beveridge plan. The government will likely try to make all possible political hay out of popular confusion on this point. The Marsh report is not a government plan for action. It is simply a basis of discussion, a compilation of facts and a proposal, out of which the administration may offer the people of Canada everything, nothing, or something entirely different.

Dr. Marsh would be the last person to claim that he has covered all the angles; that he has detected all the problems; that his report is an action blueprint. That it was produced under such high pressure and with little assistance is a high tribute to him. He himself is quoted as saying that, "we really did the intensive brain work in a week." It will not be claimed that "Social Security" for a nation can be blueprinted in one feverish week.

The subject of social security is on nearly everyone's mind in Canada, United States, the United Kingdom and elsewhere. Discussion of it now is highly proper because of its implications for wartime morale and postwar planning. The more and the better the study put on this subject by all groups now the better.

Such study must also consider where the pastry and the filling for the "pie-in-the-sky" is to come from. The first job must be to ensure production of the national income that will make security possible. Without that, schedules of "benefits" are cruel illusions which some politicians will use to dazzle the eyes of voters.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Ontario Department of Education intend releasing 100,000 boys and girls from school in April to permit them to assist with seeding and other farm work.

* * * *

Proceedings already have been started in Saint John for final taking over by Federal officials of the Britain Street property optioned to them a year ago by the city, for construction of naval barracks and training quarters. While the cost of the project was said at first to have been estimated at $350,000, the amount may run up to $500,000 before the job is completed, a C. P. despatch states.

* * * *

The great earthquake at Quito, capital of Ecuador, took place this date 1859, when the city was practically razed and hundreds of lives lost; situated on the plateau of the Andes at an altitude of 9,350 feet, Quito is one of the oldest cities of South America and at one time capital of the Incas, who established themselves there and in Peru in the 12th century, generally increasing their dominion until the whole region from Ecuador to Chile was under their sway; their rule continued for over three centuries during which they developed a fairly successful system of socialism and carried out magnificient building and engineering works until conquered by Spain through the internal quarrellings of competing dictators.

* * * *

Notwithstanding all the money being spent on bureaucracies they are not altogether to be relied upon. In the House at Ottawa, Mr. John G. Diefenbaken remarked that the enlistments in January were 3,327 men. Hon. Mr. Ralston corrected him by stating that there were 11,631 and 8,927 in February. Mr. Diefenbaken rejoined that he had obtained his information from "Canada At War" published by the Wartime Information Board and from returns brought down in the House, and if the conclusions he had drawn were not correct then the information being put out by "Canada at War" was not correct. He suggested the Minister should get in touch with the information department "and bring them up to date so that we can have the correct information on the subject." Col. Ralston: "I am giving what the figures really are."

* * * *

One never knows these days whether a traitor or quizzling may not be busy in one's own vicinity. A trial in Pretoria, Union of South Africa, disclosed that a policeman in Johannesburg had lined up an anti-British contingent of his fellow policemen for the purpose of wholesale sabotage. He himself found his way to Germany, returned in a U-boat, landed on a desolate shore on the south west coast of Africa with $10,000 in American money, radio equipment and weapons, and made a three-day desert crossing to a rendezvous with fellow conspirators. Documents seized after his capture on December 27, 1941, led to the arrest of 300 policemen in the Johannesburg area, all charged with belonging to a semi-military organization. The government cited instances of sabotage which occurred before Leibrandt's capture, such as the blasting of the power station near Victoria Falls and destruction reported in many other places. He has been sentenced to death, and several of his fellow conspirators to imprisonment.

* * * *

Shortly after the beginning of the former World War, Mr. Laurence Binyon, whose death at the age of 74 is announced from London, wrote a poem of consolation which won for him great popularity. The title was "For the Fallen" one stanza of which was engraved at the doorway of the British Museum, which he served so long and with much distinction. The lines are as appropriate today as when written 29 years ago. For example:

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
And again:
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

Like many other thinkers of his generation, Mr. Binyon must have been grieved at the second visitation of war on a global scale within a lifetime. Britain conferred upon him the high title of Companion of Honor.

Notes By The Way

They keep on binding atlases, though it's definitely a loose-leaf era. —Chicago News.

Some people still believe that the Beveridge proposal has something to do with tea and coffee rationing.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

We've laid up the car this year on account of the gasoline shortage. By next year we'll probably have to lay away the cigarette lighter for the duration. —St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Public Accounts Committee of the House of Commons, whose nominal duty is to scrutinize all expenditures, hasn't met since the war began. Isn't this putting just a bit too much trust in the ancient belief that figures don't lie? —Sudbury Star

The inventor of Britain's new weapon the radio locator, breaks the amazing news that more than a thousand women were in on the secret; and kept it! Proving that what you hear about the age of miracles being past is the bunk. —Ottawa Citizen

Tim Buck and his gang promised to be good citizens. They're going about it in a peculiar way. If they were as patriotic as they profess we expected them to go into the armed forces, or into the merchant service, say on a run to Russia. It's unlikely, though, that these people will risk their lovely necks for this or any other country. —Northern Miner.

Two New York doctors are pretty sure that gray house mice can carry infantile paralysis, and have said so pretty clearly —for doctors, observes Time. Clause Jungeblut and Gilbert Dalldorff reported in the American Journal of Public Health that they had found similar viruses (tentatively identified as Theiler's strain of the poliomyelitis group) in the brains of a man who died of infantile paralysis and a mouse found dead in his cellar. This was the first time such a virus has ever been found in a common house mouse. Dr. Jungeblut and Dr. Dalldorf hoped their "preliminary observations" would at least stir many a mouse-tolerant householder to action.

Australian troops are to be taught how to find substenance in the bush, like the aborigines do. A new instruction course designed to make them inedependent of ordinary supplies if cut off or isolated, is being taught without delay. The troops will learn that— The roots of certain trees contain water. Four teaspoonsful of water can be obtained from a frog dug out of dried mud. Onion weed bulbs are palatable Certain shrubs and plants such as lucerne, nettles, saltbush and milk thistles can be used as substitutes for spinach The big white and pink witchetty or pelattie grubs on redgums, bluegums, wattles, honeysuckle and mallee roots are a native delicacy Ant's eggs, toasted on a hot stone taste like bread. The bark of a certain tree, when crushed up and thrown into a creek, will dope fish and bring them to the surface within an hour Snake meat is nourishing It is not claimed that such a diet would be satisfying, but it would keep a man alive for weeks. —Australia News Letter.

Before I had been forty-eight hours in China I had rejected three attactive offers to purchase my boots. My shirts had been admired with clearly covetous intent. Learning that my stay was to be brief, people lost no time in informing me of Chungking's prime rule for visitors: when you leave you sell or give away everything you can possibly spare from your kit The shops are full of local manufactures of third-rate quality, and food of first-rate quality. There are occasional displays of imported goods, but when you inquire the prices you realize why your friends are not ashamed to beg. In Chengtu I notice a tobacconist's shop displaying a dozen tins of English cigarettes. They were a brand which cost half a crown for fifty in India. I inquired the price. Translated into sterling it was £3. In one store I saw an ancient bicycle with worn-out tires, priced at £60. A departing foreign resident got £300 for a radio set when he left Chungking it would have cost him £15 when new That imported goods should be scarce in beleaguered China is natural enough. That they should actually sell at such dizzy prices seems incredible. Who can afford to buy them? The answer is that in spite of the government's regulations and penalties, there are still merchants and speculators making millionaire incomes Such people can even afford to drink Scotch whiskey at £27 a bottle, and smoke foreign cigarettes at 1s. 2d. each. An overcoat is the correct wear for dinner. If you want warmth in your room you must buy your own charcoal for the brazier. With care, 5s. will keep you warm for the best part of a day.—Martin Moore in London Daily Telegraph.

The current vitamin craze may be strongly tinged with faddism, but the new interest that is being aroused in the life-giving qualities of our foods is all to the good none the less. We are discovering at last that our health depends not on how much we eat, but what we eat. The havoc which vitamin deficiency can wreck was recently shown very vividly in Texas with an experiment in pig breeding. There is a lesson for humans to learn from these experiments. Duirng the height of the dust bowl years, two litters of pigs in separated communities were born blind. The authorities set out to discover the reason. Experiments were conducted in hog diet. One diet was devised which was completely devoid of Vitamin A. Sows fed on this diet farrowed pigs which were not only blind but which had no eyes. In one experiment, a sow became too weak to stand. She was given one dose of cod liver oil. In eight hours she was standing again. When her pigs were born they were blind but had rudimentary eyes. The experiments were carried a step further. The pigs which were born eyeless were inter-bred and put on vitamin A diets. In every case their offspring had sound eyes and eyesight. The conclusions which can be drawn from this experiment is clear. Many of the defects in our bodies can be often attributed to the diets of our mothers. The mothers of today who take care of their diets are more likely to produce babies with better bodies, sounder organs and a chance for a healthier life than those who regard modern science as news-fangled nonsense. —Winnipeg Free Press

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.

ALCOHOLIC EXTRACTS

Sir,— Are the holes in the Prohibition law going to be plugged at this year's session of the House?

If so, would I be speaking out of turn to suggest that something be done in regards to the sale of beverage alcohol over the counters of many of our Island stores? Is the Attorney General aware that the wholesale distribution of alcoholic extracts such as lemon, orange and etc., has skyrocketed in the past few years and that many little stores in Prince Edward Island which sell a hundred dollars or two hundred dollars worth of miscellaneous groceries in a month have a sale of lemon and orange extract nearly as great?

Do you know that only about three housewives in a thousand ever buy orange flavouring extract and then a bottle does them for years? And do you also know that thousands of bottles of orange extract are sold over the grocery counters of Prince Edward Island every year not to flavour the purchaser's drink but for the purchaser to drink its flavour?

Do the agents of the Attorney General check the lists which are supposed to be kept by each retail store of sale of alcoholic extracts? Do they, or are they allowed, to check these lists with the merchants' invoices?

I wonder could the Attorney General inform the public how many thousands of gallons of lemon and orange extract are sold each year in the Island? Does the Dominion Government know how much excise it is losing on extracts having an alcoholic basis which are sold as beverage alcohol

And too, does Attorney General realize that alcoholic extracts form a large part of the sales of some wholesale drug firms in this Island?

Does he know that Orange Extract contains more alcohol than any beverage liquor one can buy? That the cut by the Dominion Government in the alcoholic content of spirituous liquors does not apply to Orange and Lemon extract and that therefore they are the hardest alcoholic liquors on the market, in addition to being the easiest to procure?

Does the Attorney General know that alcoholic extracts are no longer a necessity on the shelves of either our stores or pantries and that the non-alcoholic ones are just as good and often cheaper?

Finally does the government of this Province know there is a war on, and that industrial alcohol is a vital necessity to our war effort?

If so, let us see some action.

I am, Sir, etc.
LONG-SILENT OPINION.
Souris, P.E.I.

HOG MARKETING

Sir,—Sometime ago the writer had a small ad. inserted in the columns of The Pioneer stating that he was Loading Hogs at Alberton and O'Leary from West Prince for Davis & Fraser which I considered quite the right thing to do as I thought perhaps some of the owners might like to know that at least some shipper was doing something to keep the homes fires burning. But whether or not this will prove a boom or a boomerang remains to be seen. However I do know that it has been one of the best bits of advertising that this paper has had for many a year, for it brought forth such a barrage of advertising from the publicity department of the parties interested in the removal of all the livestock on P.E.I. to some other province to be slaughtered for reasons known only to those within the ring.

The first appearing was an elaborate two-column article which I can hardly call an add as this was a plea to the Hog Growers of Prince County to ship one hundred per cent of all hogs through the so-called co-operative and certainly away from the province and local plant. Now this article savored much of the propaganda campaign carried on for some weeks previous to the vote on the compulsory marketing act which some vested interest succeeded in getting through the council before anyone was aware of the far-reaching and detrimental results this would have. But alas like all premature births it was short lived. However this may cause the author to direct all his remarks to Prince County as this county did strenuously oppose the high-handed methods of the promoters of the scheme.

This article states the increase of hogs will be great this coming season. With this I do agree. Then he gives good advice, namely, that each producer consider well how and where he should market his hogs, whether through a drover or their own co-operative. Now would he please give us the definition of these two. My understanding of a drover is anyone engaged in assembling livestock for sale. And if I am correct this only makes this gentleman the lung of drovers. As after his defeat on the marketing scheme he succeeded in organizing an army of drovers, some recruits and others drafted. However they are here and I doubt if they are giving their time gratuitously any more than gentlemen at the head of affairs. As for the Co-operative we all know what it is supposed to be. But a name is not all that is required. He calls this your own. Whose own? Another case of Jakey's pig but daddy's pork.

Then he would lead the public to believe that all those who ship hogs except through him as the Marketing Board must barter the farmer to the last cent and that the drover profits at the expense of the producer. Now if this was due to ignorance of the fact he might be excused. But this is only another case of misrepresentation.

The difference with the individual shipper and the Live Stock Marketing Board is that one pretends to sell to the highest bidder and the other does not. Then this gentleman claims to set the price paid for hogs. Now it was quite well established by a fact finding commission some time ago that the price of hogs was set in Toronto on Monday of each week by a man higher up in the packing business even than the manager of the Marketing Board, together with the fact that the Prices and Trade Board are on guard. I doubt if we can expect much difference in prices although one of the adds say: Why take a cut. I may say there is more ways than one of taking a cut as this gentleman well knows.

This article prates glibly about no secrets, efficient management, low overhead, competitive selling etc. Would he please state the number of bids he receives from the local plant in Charlottetown. Also why it is necessary to maintain an office to write cheques in Charlottetown when this could be done at the packing plant by officials as is customary eliminating delays in returns. Would he tell the producer what would become of their hogs supposing our ferry was disabled for weeks instead of days as was the case sometime ago. Would they then be as adverse to seeing any of those slaughtered on P.E.I. or would they engage planes to fly them over? This is something for the producer to ponder over. Also the manager of the Marketing Board.

I am Sir, etc.
SANFORD PHILLIPS.
O'LEARY, P.E.I.

Russia's Debt To England

(From the Chicago Tribune)

Great Britain saved Russia in the 12 months between the fall of France in June, 1940, and the Nazi attack on the Soviets in June, 1941. The critical battle, when all the events are reviewed in their relation to one another, was not in Stalingrad in 1942-43. It was over London in 1940. The Soviet Union cannot fully repay the British people by any sacrifices so far made Except for British doggedness in defeat Russia now would be reduced to dominion over impoverished waste desired by no one. That's important to remember, if it had been forgotten.

A confusion seems to have cast events into disarray. They have been thrown into historical reverse. The war drama has been presented with its acts in the wrong sequence. The Russians are winning battles for the common cause only because the British would not cave in and make a peace with Hitler. That result was not an accident of the war, although it was not in the intention. The salvation of the Soviets followed as the natural consequence of the British refusal to make peace. At the time they had reason to hate Stalin as intensely as they hated Hitler and his barbarians. The Red dictatorship had done its part to give the Nazis a complete victory. If it had succeeded in doing so, Russia would have been dismembered.

Stalin is sure in his references to the failure of Britain—and now the United States—to open a front in Western Europe. He's had a second front. For a year it kept war out of his territory. It blockaded his watchful enemy and treacherous ally. Stalin had the advantage of the sea wall of ships surrounding his foe. It saved him. If there should be any doubt, let the obvious be considered.

If Britain had fallen shortly after the fall of France, the fleet might have withdrawn and the remainder of the empire would have continued the fight. The conditions in England would have been horrible, but America would have entered the war and the blockade would have continued. Germany would have gained little advantage, although the island would have been smitten by the ultimate disaster. Fortunately, Hitler was too fascinated by his rapid conquest of France, or too stunned by it to take advantage of Dunkirk. Later, when Goering tried to end the war by air attack, he failed. The R.A.F. bagged so many of his planes that he lost his nerve. British courage under punishment stopped him.

Horizon Land'

(De Voto in Harper's.)

This war is so different from the last one, that when you speculate about the literature that will follow it, you can get little help from analogy. About 1920, for example, literature began to long for island paradises in the South Seas. What the Pacific Islands meant to the 1920's was release from a world thought of as ugly, known to be complex and felt to be threatening. They were horizon land, they were the soul's idyl, and literary people longed for them not as Tahiti but as Lyonnesse, where there was neither rain, suffering, nor industrialism.

But the atolls of the sun are not likely to be Lyonnesse ever again; too many soldiers and sailors will be veterans of them.

They will feel no nostalgia for what they saw there, for hookworm, leprosy, yaws, a dozen kinds of fevers, a hundred kinds of ulcers, the coral disease, the fish that poisons you when you eat it, the water that poisons you when you swim in it, the insects that bleed you night and day, and molds and mildews of the jungle. They will remember the purple wave on the opal beach primarily as a terrible boredom eating their sanity. White shadows in the South Seas will signify canned food, unalleviated discomfort, deprivation, loneliness and battle.

Whatever they may remember about the dusky native girls, it will not tend to embellish the Gauguin motif. The Gauguin motif has probably lost its force for a full generation, and with it the O'Brien motif, the Maugham motif, and the Nordhoff-Hall motif.

Went To Certain Death

(The People, London)

Out of 100 men who, under the

The Poet's Corner

THE LIGHTER DAYS

Who noted, when the shortest day
was past,
The subtle change the extra seconds' light—
Until those seconds grew and we could read
Clearly in minutes the defeat of night?

War's darkest hours are by no table fixed,
We cannot mark the calendar and say
"This is the date from which our fortunes mend;
This is the darkest time, the solstice day."

Yet we can read the minutes when they mount—
Are they not gathered now, and daily grow,
Shining from Tripoli to Leningrad,
Portents that Freedom's progress clearly show?

—Stephen Mogridge.

late Lieut. Col. Geoffrey Keyes, V.C., set out in November, 1941, to capture Rommel and smash the nerve centre of the German High Command in Libya, only 17 succeeded in reaching their objective.

These facts of the daring raid were disclosed by Admiral Lord Keyes at Nottingham.

"The attack led by my son," he said, "was designed to break up the nerve centre of the German High Command, and capture Rommel, who was the spirit of the German resistance.

"There were various things to be done, including the cutting of telegraph lines, the destruction of the power station, and blowing-up the Staff Headquarters.

"The force was intended to be about 100 strong, but owing to bad weather and various other causes nearly all the boats capsized and the men had to swim ashore.

"When eventually the force arrived at Rommel's headquarters, 20 or more miles inland, and 250 miles behind the front line, it was only 17 strong, and left only three people to enter the German headquarters. They were two officers and Sgt. Terry, of Nottingham.

"They went" — Lord Keyes paused, then, speaking very slowly, added—"to certain death, but Sgt. Terry was left to tell the tale."

Lord Keyes paid a tribute to Rommel's chivalry, and said that his son was buried with full military honors, while pictures had been sent of Lieut. Col. Keyes' body lying in state in a German chapel.

VARNA'S TIDAL WAVE

Bulgaria's seaport of Varna was covered by a tidal wave in 540 A.D.

OTTAWA, March 18—(CP)—Prosecutions for violations of oil control regulations totalled 246 to Feb. 14, 1943, and there were 234 convictions, said a return tabled in the Commons today for J. G. Diefenbaker (Prog. Con. Lake Centre.)

YES, and this is evidence that *Canada's war effort is moving in high gear,* as the day's work in a bank is closely allied with that effort. It means:—

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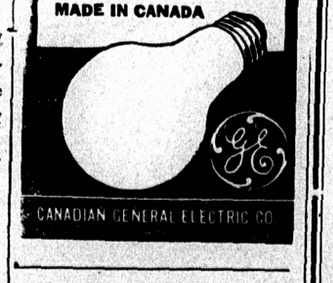
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