

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1938

In Retrospect

Now that the world has recovered from the consternation caused by the decision to surrender the Sudeten territory to Germany, it is possible, the Toronto Telegram says, to look back and seek the reasons for the unanimous agreement of the British and French Cabinets.

The prospect that faced them was of war, with its appalling and incalculable consequences. The question they had to answer was: Is there anything in the present situation to justify us in going to war?

Next came the loss of territory for Czechoslovakia, the injury to Czechoslovakian national pride, the injury to French pride and the general feeling of humiliation in face of an apparent triumph for a brutal aggressor.

There was finally the question of the future. Would it be safe to inflame the pride of the Nazis and at the same time give Hitler a new strategic advantage in his march through Europe?

There was finally the question of the future. Would it be safe to inflame the pride of the Nazis and at the same time give Hitler a new strategic advantage in his march through Europe? Could he be prevented from using that advantage to take more? Could Czechoslovakia herself be saved?

Business Prospects

Deploping the spate of sensational and depressing rumors induced by the international crisis, Electrical News and Engineering says that "it would seem that on this side of the Atlantic we prefer to hear bad news to good."

Compared with July, 1932, there was an increase of about 64 per cent in electrical consumption last July, 1,470 million k.w.h., as against 900 millions in the corresponding month of 1932.

To take other indices: For the week ended September 3, there were sizeable gains in such important factors as car-loading and bank clearings. According to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, the weekly index rose to 109.4 for that week, as compared with 107.4 in the preceding week.

Debt And War

Now that the war scare is over, let us draw a deep breath and think what it would mean if Mr. Chamberlain had failed in his peace efforts and Canada along with the rest of the British Empire had been drawn into another world conflict.

federal debt was about \$335 millions. By the end of the war this had risen, sevenfold to \$2.3 billions.

In addition to adding two billion dollars to federal debt a further quarter of a billion was incurred by provinces and municipalities.

Yet post-war prosperity failed miserably to reduce these colossal figures.

Despite tremendously increased tax levies, the net reduction in federal debt during the prosperous 'twenties was only \$280 millions.

Provincial and municipal debts were meanwhile soaring at appalling speed. By the time 1929 came round our total public debt had reached \$5.5 billions.

The depression has tacked on a further \$2 billions. The current total is around \$7.3 billions.

One reason the Dominion Government and the provinces are able to continue to pile up debt is that the average citizen does not realize what it is costing him.

The total net direct public debt of Canada—that is, Dominion, provincial and municipal—amounts to about \$5,800 millions. Assuming an average interest rate of 4%, the annual interest bill comes to \$232 millions. That means an annual bill of \$100 for each and every Canadian family.

In addition there is a guaranteed or indirect debt of \$1,475 millions. Again assuming an average rate of 4%, annual interest charges amount to \$58 millions.

Interest charges of the Dominion Government alone, amounted to over \$132 millions in the 1937-38 fiscal year. In the past five years it has paid more than \$682 millions in interest.

During the past five years, deficits of the Dominion Government have totalled \$504 millions.

If there had been no debt and consequently no interest charges there would have been a surplus of \$178 millions rather than a huge deficit.

Lower taxes are essential if Canada is to grow and prosper through individual enterprise and initiative. Yet such an objective cannot be achieved if debt is increased.

Commitment of Canada to aid in another World War would inevitably cause such an increase, unless a tremendous national effort were made to raise taxation to the point where war expenditure were financed out of current revenue.

Distasteful as that would be, it is a course that would be infinitely preferable to a further debt orgy along the lines of the 1914-20 period.

It is unthinkable that Canada could add several billions of dollars to her national debt for wasting assets of war and still hope to avoid financial bankruptcy.

Editorial Notes

William Morris, poet and artist, died this date, 1896.

Thanksgiving for peace maintained was universally offered in the churches yesterday.

Potato prices would need to be higher, as they are, this fall, judging by the weather and poor crops now being reaped in some districts.

The increase of the gasoline tax in Ontario from 6 cents to 7 cents per gallon means an additional revenue of \$3,000,000; and now the Quebec Government contemplates a similar advance, but in their case the increased revenue will amount to \$1,000,000, as Ontario's consumption of gas is three times that of its sister province.

Premier Duplessis has just returned from England where nobody in Quebec knew he had been. He left Quebec about six weeks ago on vacation, and it was generally understood he had gone to the woods, where only the birds and fishes were to be his company in complete retirement from the harassment of politics.

Among the natives of Jamaica potatoes fall more or less into the luxury class. Their consumption is confined largely to the middle and upper classes of the population, and these are numerically quite small.

It is never entirely easy to gauge the public taste, and though I am disposed to think that what the public—or more of the public than most today—wants to read about the Pelican series of books, is confirmation of that view from a responsible source is welcome.

Canadian sugar refineries for some time have been operating on a heightened level of activity. A recent report shows both increased production and sales as compared with last year.

NOTES BY THE WAY

They had a lot of war hysteria in 1914, too. The people were trying to whip up the popular frenzy at the moment have nothing on the action Sir Sam Hughes took at Ottawa on August 3, 1914. The man who was in Ottawa in Canada had been whooping it up for war. He was disgusted when Great Britain had not declared war against Germany on August 3, 1914.

Among the learned men who have been talking at Stratford-on-Avon is Professor Dyer Wilson. Wilson has been writing and lecturing on the Shakespeare Conference. Our strange and irrational English spelling, which had been introduced by a certain amount of modern growth, in Shakespeare's day every gentleman spelt as he liked and some more every gentleman-woman-witness the handwriting orthography of Queen Elizabeth herself.

It appears strange that housewives should complain that milk no longer goes so sweet as it used to do in their mother's days. But the old-fashioned medium used in many cooking recipes is apparently lost to housewives. Compounds kept overly long goes putrid rather than becomes sour. Before the days of pasteurization it was possible, owing to the accidental souring of milk or the purposeful version into "curds and whey," to obtain a product esteemed as a table delicacy, a medium for biscuit making and for soups. It is a taste appeal, a refreshing drink. Now, however, modern dairies are so scrupulously clean and modern pasteurization technique so efficient that the bacteria organisms, bacillus acidophilus which sour milk is almost entirely absent from the lacte fluid generally distributed in the American market.

Every step which Britain makes to strengthen her preparedness in attack and defence is in the present circumstances a direct encouragement to reasonableness and peace. Aerial might is now of paramount importance in the present struggle. It is a remarkable stride in equipment itself after a period of decline. Aerial strength which was intended as an example to other nations of practical disarmament in the air, however, does not depend on the initial strength of an air force when a war breaks out, but on the continuing strength. The project to manufacture bombers in Canada is a shrewd strategic scheme for supplying the necessary strength and also making good the wastages of warfare. There are serious disadvantages in concentrating war strength in an area which is a range of air attack from all parts of the European Continent. The British Isles in the past have been regarded as an arsenal for the whole Empire, but there is now everything to be gained by disposing our resources to supply throughout the countries of the world which by sentimentality form a federation akin to that of the Pelican family.

Psychiatry is that integral part of the art of medicine which has to do with the physician's knowledge of human nature, that knowledge which the family doctor intuitively uses in estimating the importance of signs and symptoms in his patients. He knows, for instance, that one patient will make light of a condition that would seriously alarm another person. He knows that the symptoms of which his patients complain—heart stomach, gall bladder, kidneys—are not due to any disturbance of these organs, but to anxiety and disappointment.

It is never entirely easy to gauge the public taste, and though I am disposed to think that what the public—or more of the public than most today—wants to read about the Pelican series of books, is confirmation of that view from a responsible source is welcome. The source is Mr. Allen Lane, publisher of the Pelican series, which I suppose have caught the public's taste more successfully than any similar series ever before. It is a pity that the blue (non-fiction) Pelicans, or better, and now I hear that negotiations are well advanced for publication in the Pelican series of a short history of international relations since the War, in collaboration with the most authoritative of all bodies in that field, the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

An Ontario Trades and Labor Council wants the Canadian Government to ban Italian propaganda films—presumably because it is a Fascist propaganda. This would be a very foolish move. Why ban the ludicrous? No government has yet succeeded in abolishing an idea or a faith by prohibition. The only adequate way to combat Fascism and Communism are free thought, free discussion and our sense of what is funny. For they are both ludicrous—until we start taking them seriously—Van-couver Sun.

PUBLIC FORUM

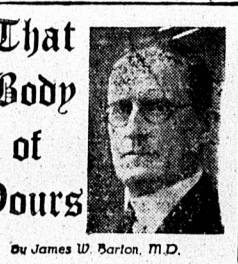
This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

AIRPORT AXEMEN

Sir—I understand that there is a new airport, work being pushed ahead very satisfactorily. But by reports there appears to be a number of accidents, quite a few of the men have been hurt by cuts on their feet. This means lost time and medical treatment which they can ill afford, for to use an axe expert care for a certain amount of experience which many of them do not possess, as most of them are mere boys and every woodsman knows that an inexperienced chopper is a menace to himself and every one near him.

EDMUND RICE
City.

P.S.—Although a lot of people do not know it, the double bladed, or edged axe, is really intended to chop down two trees at the same time, which can be easily done when they are growing close together. It is itself always chop that way.—E.R.



That Body of Yours
Dr. James W. Barton, M.D.

MEN AND WOMEN ARE NOT MACHINES. THEY HAVE PERSONALITIES.

In these days when there is so much talk about psychiatry, which simply means the way we behave ourselves, it is well to recall the story of the country physician who was hurriedly called by a city psychiatrist to attend one of his former patients, a young woman in her twenties. The city physician had found it difficult to diagnose her case despite careful examination. When the country physician arrived he took the patient's pulse and temperature. He examined her heart, blood pressure, chest, and abdomen.

It can be readily understood that the city physician could not know the patient or her history, nor could he likely get much information from a study of her long and patient questioning. He was at a great disadvantage. Dr. G. H. Gundry, Ontario Hospital, Belleville, Canada, in the Canadian Medical Association Journal says:

"Psychiatry is that integral part of the art of medicine which has to do with the physician's knowledge of human nature, that knowledge which the family doctor intuitively uses in estimating the importance of signs and symptoms in his patients. He knows, for instance, that one patient will make light of a condition that would seriously alarm another person. He knows that the symptoms of which his patients complain—heart stomach, gall bladder, kidneys—are not due to any disturbance of these organs, but to anxiety and disappointment."



IN MEMORIAM
Samuel Napier Robertson
October 3, 1937

We would repine if lives thy spirit touched
Dared to die and whimper smitten
With His rod;
For sudden tears and wallings here
Were met.

For us the steady step on darkening path
(The thorns shall medicine the inward pain)
Thine eye to light us and thy hand to guide.

Recruiting Spies From Radio Enthusiasts

(Hamilton Spectator)
Rare indeed is the man or woman who does not get a tremendous kick out of finding his name or face in the public eye or ear.

That is why so many people write letters to editors and to radio stations, and why, whenever there is a gambling-joint raid or a particularly gory accident, the news photographers' toughest job is to get rid of the horde of publicity-mad by-standers who insist upon showing morose grins in between the lens and the news.

By trading on that peculiar trait of human egoism, Hitler is rapidly building up what probably already constitutes the greatest sucker list in the world—a roster of potential Nazi espionage agents compared with which a mass meeting of all the spies who functioned for all sides in the World War would be almost insignificant.

In return the listeners get "QSL" verification cards commonly known as "wall paper" and usually adorned with a photograph of the station or scenes characteristic of the country where the transmitter is located.

At 4:55 P.M., every afternoon, and again at 10:45 each evening, the guttural voice of the German short-wave announcer is heard, in obviously guttural English: "Good evening dear friends, our listeners in Nord America." Then follows anywhere from five to fifteen minutes of personal messages to listeners from Maine to California, from Great Lakes to the Rio Grande.

"Zo", says the Berlin announcer, "Herr Adolf Dinglezimpt in Chicago is having a birthday party tonight. Congratulations, dear Herr Dinglezimpt, and greetings to all your dear friends and relations gathered there with you in your home. We here in Germany wish you many happy returns of the day, and we trust you are enjoying good reception. You must write, dear Herr Dinglezimpt, and give us all the news from Chicago."

Are these gushing greetings merely as Germany would like to believe, by way of a courteous gesture for the laudable promotion of international amity? There is a geometrical axiom to the general effect that there must be at least two sides to every coin, that includes Herr Hitler's "Gruesse an unser Hoerer."

Hitler wants every scrap of information obtainable about the United States, no matter how superficially trivial it may seem. If nothing else, the sort of "chatty, newsy" letters Berlin requests, and gets, from American listeners help him keep his finger on the pulse of American public opinion at first hand. And one never knows when the most innocent-seeming bit of gossip may turn out to be news of utmost importance, especially if it dovetails in with other scraps of information to form a complete picture.

For one thing, it is obvious that every listener who writes to the German short-wave station, at least list slightly toward approval of Nazism, for the simple reason that Hitler's short-wave radio equipment is the most powerful and efficient in the world today.

The result is, of course, that the real short-wave addict, who wants QSL cards that are hard to get, that represent real DX and that he can brag about to other short-wave fans, doesn't bother with Germany, which to him is "just another local", but goes after such distant catches as Johannesburg, Shanghai or Batavia, or some other tiny station in the far corners of the world. Ergo, people who listen to German broadcasts are presumed to be interested in Germany.

When a listener's letter is received in Berlin it is analyzed carefully, after which the writer gets a reply in terms governed by what has been deducted from his letter.

Such a listener, whose first letter has put him on Berlin's approved list, is informed that if he will be sure to listen in at a specified time, Berlin will be honoured to send him personal message via the air waves.

The unsuspecting listener immediately rounds up all his friends, neighbours, relations, and any one he can drag into the net, and invites them all in for the momentous occasion. When the great moment finally arrives he seems an almost berserker with pride as the assembled throng hears his name called through the loud-speaker all the way from Berlin.

Naturally, almost any one thus singled out for world-wide publicity by a foreign nation might be expected to feel friendly, or at least kindly, toward that nation. Hitler knows that, and so the listener is encouraged to write, not just formal reports of conditions under which broadcasts are heard, but "chatty, friendly letters, giving us all the news."

By careful husbandry many such listeners can be developed into willing Nazi agents, while literally thousands of others, who would resent bitterly any suggestion that they might serve any nation but their own, may be entirely unwittingly, provide the Nazis with plenty of valuable information which otherwise could be obtained only at considerable difficulty and expense.

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