THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

FRIDAY, MAY 16, 1941.

Empire Day Observance

Empire Day (May 24) falling this year on Saturday, the celebration in the schools throughout this Province will be held on Friday, May 23 (Arbour Day). Instructions to this effect have been issued by the Provincial Department of Education accompanied by the request that flags be displayed, patriotic exercises held, and speakers invited to address the pupils where convenient.

The Department is to be commended on following the traditional procedure in this instance, and not the example of Ontario, where the Minister of Education has advised school principals throughout the Province that he is withdrawing the usual Empire Day programs in the schools. The reason given for this breach of tradition is that special recognition was given to St. George's Day this year, and this, in the Ontario Minister's opinion, provided an opportunity for killing, as it were, two birds with one stone.

Already, strong objection has been taken in the Ontario press to this procedure. The Globe and Mail argues logically that in war time there is more reason than ever for celebrating Empire Day, which is associated with the natal day of good Queen Victoria, whose long reign was synonymous with Empire expansion.

And here is a thought which our Toronto contemporary stresses, and which might well be emphasized locally in commemorating the anniversary.

"The early development of this country was financed with British money, and the British Isles have never failed to provide the most dependable market for our products. The early British Governors laid the foundations upon which a healthy civilization can be reared. British generals and British troops cleared the country of its enemies and prpeared the way for the establishment of self-governing institutions and the unrivalled system of British law. A people who speak a different tongue from ours has grown up with us and attained a large measure of prosperity without sacrifice of individuality, owing this to the Imperial connection. It is a debt which they recognize and are prepared to discharge. In South Africa, there is a similar situation with the Dutch-speaking Boers living in harmony, but not always in agreement, with their English-speaking compatriots. They too, are in large measure contributing to the common cause. New Zealand and Australia and India are already in the thick of the fight.

"In short, the nations of the British Empire have set an example for all the world to see.. Whatever their internal disagreements may be, and however much rivalry has been displayed in their external dealings, they have held fast to a common conception of civilized living, and have moved wtih one accord to resist any threat to their common ideals. These are things which should be kept before the eyes of the children throughout the Empire. And while it is right and natural that we should celebrate St. George's Day in recognition of the valiant bearing of the people of England in their time of crisis, that is no justification for allowing the celebration of Empire Day to lapse. It is perhaps the most important of all our national festivals, and it was never so important as it is today."

Overseas Doctors To Britain

In view of the increasing demands on the services of doctors for war purposes in Britain, two Orders have been made, under the powers of the Defence Regulations, authorizing the General Medical Council to include oversea doctors temporarily in the Medical Register under certain conditions. The first Order applies to doctors qualified to practise in Canada or the United States of America. They must be of British nationality or United States citizens. There are no specific conditions as to employment, but the object of the Order is to facilitate their employment in the Emergency Medical Service. The second Order applies to doctors qualified to practise in any part of the British Empire or in the countries of our European Allies, or in Germany or Italy. One of the conditions of registration is that the doctor must be selected either for a medical commission in one of the fighting Forces or for employment in a hospital, institution, or service, not involving attendance in the patient's own home, approved by the Minister of Health (or in Scotland or Northern Ireland the appropriate Secretary of State). The main objects of this Order are (1) to facilitate the employment of medical officers in the allied Forces in the United Kingdom by giving them the privileges of registered medical practitioners, and (2) to facilitate the employment of Dominion and foreign doctors in civil hospitals by giving them the same privileges.

Less Costly In The End

There is some comfort in the reflection that, burdensome as the new war taxation may be, it is better that it should be borne for a few years, with the prospect of great relief when victory has been won, than that the war should be lost for lack of effort and that extremely costly national defence should have to be maintained for long years in the future. We pay the present heavy taxes for insurance against that worse fate which would impoverish the tax-payers and the country for a long peeriod. It is well that recognition of this fact is being shown.

The Toronto Telegram, for instance, is quite to the point when it says: "Americans and Canadians should understand that by paying for a full out war effort to beat Hitler now their future taxes and those of their children may get back to normal. If Nazi militarism is not crushed now there is nothing ahead of this continent except an endless arms race against an armed Europe with taxes going higher and higher.

"From a purely dollar and cents standpoint it is common sense for the North American nations to go the limit now."

We must fight to defeat Hitlerism, in the first place because we cannot endure the thought of a world under Nazi domination. At the same time, we shall get a good return for the enormous war expenditure in the security and great reduction in defence costs in the new, democratic world order.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

We have now reasonable prospects for a good fishing holiday tomorrow week.

* * * *

This day week will be equivalent to Saturday, owing to Victoria, or Empire Day, being celebrated on the 24th. Merchants and customers will have to govern themselves accordingly.

* * * *

According to Hansard, the voice of a member for Queens has at length been heard in the House as follows: "Hon Cyrus Macmillan (Queens) moved the second reading of Bill No. 42 for the relief of Hubert Earl Roberts.

"Some hon members: Opposed.

(After some discussion).

"Motion stands."

* * * *

Charles Chubb, English locksmith, died this date, 1845. He made improvements on detector locks patented by his brother Jeremiah Chubb, and invented burglar and fireproof safes, which with some improvements by his son John, are still the leading security for valuables in use at the present time.

* * * *

This how the Civil Service grows. Total permanent and temporary Dominion civil service employees were 45,776 on July 31, 1930, 41,449 on August 31, 1935, 48,533 on September 30, 1939 and 57,823 on September 30, 1940. The average monthly salary was $126.56 in 1930, $125.75 in 1935, $126.64 in 1939 and $117.67 in 1940.

* * * *

A sixpenny booklet just published by George Philip and Son, Ltd., London, contains miniature portraits of British, Dominion and allied war leaders, statesmen, naval and military and air chiefs, as well as of a number of men and women engaged in civil defence, Red Cross and other activities, with a "potted" biography of each. A timely "Who's Who" in miniature, this attractive publication should supply a popular demand in Canada as well as in the Old Country.

* * * *

U.S.A. is becoming Anglo-minded in more senses than one. More than 50 per cent more monocles have been sold in this country since the outbreak of the war than before, it was reported recently in the optical trade. Paul Gravatte of the Community Opticians Association attributed the upswing to the migration of foreigners to these shores. "Most monocle sales made by opticians throughout the country are to refugees," he declared. However, he added, opticians have also discovered that some Americans, especially on the West Coast, are wearing monocles, "which may mean that a monocle fad is starting, inspired by the refugees."

* * * *

Men from all walks of life and of all creeds and races have endorsed New York City's "I am an American Day" celebration on Central Park Mall May 18, Mayor LaGuardia announces. Bishop Thomas Molloy of Brooklyn, accepting an invitation to serve on the executive committee, said: "At no time has it been so fitting to realize the precious privileges of freedom, equality and security in our American democracy." Thomas Mann, German novelist, hailed democracy as "the only form of government compatible with the dignity of human beings and favourable to peace and progress."

* * * *

Under the 1941 Government program farmers are to be paid $4 an acre for wheat land turned to summer fallow, and $2 per acre where such land is shifted from wheat to coarse grains or grass. "For the Prairie Provinces the intended wheat area for 1941 amounts to 20,882,000 acres, a reduction of 25 per cent, or 6,696,000 acres, from the 27,750,000 acres sownw to wheat in 1940," the Bureau of Statistics says. "This reduction represents virtually an unparalleled individual effort on the part of farmers to adjust their production in light of the existing wheat situation, the nearest approach being the 20 per cent. reduction in wheat acreage effected by United States growers in the autumn of 1938 and spring of 1939."

* * * *

In reversal of the early New Deal policy of eliminating pigs, the Department of Agriculture at Washington announces that it was driving the price of hogs toward the $9 desired, as a result of heavy purchases for defense. It is the government's objective "to encourage a large increase in the number of sows bred for farrow in the Fall of 1941." Since April 3, pork and lard purchased under the defense program totals 181,000,000 pounds. During this period Chicago hog prices advanced from $7.65 to about $8.70. It is also the declared intention of the government "to secure a material increase in average weights of hogs marketed this Summer and next Fall." The increased price is expected "to stimulate feeding hogs to heavier weights this year," thus requiring more corn consumption.

NOTES BY THE WAY

St. Thomas city has declared war on tramp and roving dogs. The Times-Journal of that city calls attention to the cat menace as well. The canines are hard on lawns and flower beds, it is true; the cats kill the birds, which is their nature, but it is shameful. — St. Catharines Standard.

Pie for breakfast? Horrors! But—why not? A large and well-known hotel in Vermont has defied conventions and as a result of persistent demands from its patrons now lists apple pie on its breakfast menu. We don't know Emily Post's views on the subject, but we see no particular reason why a person who likes pie for breakfast should not have it—especially as health authorities state that the best time to eat pie is in the morning. — Kitchener Record.

The automobile is a wonderful convenience. It has made for a wider, and perhaps a fuller life, but it will not be making for greater length of days if it entirely eliminates the habit of walking. And a reasonable measure of walking is not a matter of health; it is essential to the full appreciation of scenic beauty. The rate at which the human eye can assimilate beauty is the walking and not the machine rate. He is a wise autoist that sometimes uses his machine as a means of taking him to the place where he can enjoy a pleasant walk. —Guelph Mercury.

This popular form of refreshment (the sundae) was originated in Wisconsin about sixty years ago. A boy in an ice cream parlor asked to have some chocolate syrup poured on his dish of ice cream. His example was quickly followed. But the addition of the syrup increased the cost and decreased the profit on ice cream. This led a confectioner to announce that he would sell the new dish for a nickel only on Sundays. The confectioner later gave this Sunday specialty the name "Sundae", and applied it to ice cream covered with any syrups, sauces, crushed fruits or the like.—The Pathfinder.

Nothing is surer than the fact that Canadians are going to see this war through to its bitter and triumphant end. They have shouldered without hesitation a series of heavy financial burdens. This week, with the new budget, they take up an even heavier load. They have already developed an army, navy and air force on a substantial scale; and as the scale of the needs for direct manpower increases, so the readiness of Canadians to shoulder them will appear also. We are only at the beginning of these demands. They will become larger and larger as time goes on, as successive campaigns develop on various fighting fronts. — Winnipeg Free Press.

The Hamburger Tageblatt, a German daily paper, recently reported, with much solemnity, that Marshal Goering could legitimately claim to be the cousin of George VI, King of England, as a descendant of Henry Plantagenet. The town of Brunswick undertook the investigation of the descent of the marshal, to mark the celebration of his 48th birthday, which took place last January. It was discovered that Goering was a descendant of Henri le Lion, Duke of Bavaria and Saxony in the twelfth century. If that is true, according to the Lexicon Meyer (the German equivalent of the Encyclopedia Britannica), Goering must be the direct descendant of Duke Albert II of Brunswick who died in 1318. The latter was a grandson of William, one of the three sons of Henri le Lion and of Princess Mathilde, his second wife, and daughter of Henry II of England. This would perhaps justify Hitler's satellite in replacing George VI on the throne of Great Britain if the Nazi invasion should succeed. — From Le Canada.

Perhaps there are no other people in Canada who can appreciate and enjoy the beauty of Spring more than the rural mail courier. For the past months he has faced daily sleet and snow, wind and cold, mud and drifts; appreciating to the limit the fine days when it was a pleasure to be out, but always with that apprehension and wonderment as to what the morrow would bring. Spring is here, and, knowing that the fine Summer days are ahead, we need not worry about the morrow, but can enjoy the beautiful Springtime to the full. Many, if not the majority, of routes include byways that are a picture of desolation in the bleak Wintertime, but now as we pass along the same way we can listen to the songs of the birds. — Rural Mail Courier (Toronto).

The war and Sir Kingsley Wood have certainly changed our standards of living. A publican in Susses was telling me the other day that bitter is now a toff's drink the ordinary man's drink being mild and bitter or just mild. Basement flats are now at a premium and penthouses are a drug on the market. English restaurant keepers in Soho who used to pretend to be foreigners are now careful to point out that they have just been kidding. You don't see a dinner jacket in the smartest restaurants at night; only comedians wear white ties. There is a tremendous revival in reading books. Gramophone records have come back with a bang. Home Guards in London are now concentrating on street fighting, which was considered much too ungentlemanly for them to learn only a few weeks ago. Numerology seems to have faded right out of the picture. Astrology is stronger than ever. — London Daily Mail.

We in this country have had no baptism of fire and no resulting "exaltation of spirit" (Churchill's words). We may well pray that our awakening may not come in that form. But it is clear that the majority of our people are undergoing a reluctant but irresistible change of heart. Our Atlantic frontier is already under attack. It is that frontier that we defend when we send aid to Britain. The light of a new realization and a new determination breaks over our hills above the smoke of roaring factories. Looking westward from Britain Mr. Churchill and his embattled countrymen may see it and take hope. — New York Times.

INTOXICATING

Inhalation of gasoline fumes reacts in some people the same as alcoholic beverages.

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.

THE CITY REPORT

Sir,—The City Report as prepared under the new system now in operation at City Hall does not give all the detailed information which should be available to the citizens. It is just as important that itemized details should be given as to Capital Expenditures as is done in regard to expenditures on Civic Account. For instance I was anxious to see how much was actually spent on the new "works" building on Pownal Wharf but such information is not given.

I do not wish to infer that the total expenditure is not given or that part of the amount paid has been carried over, but the only mention made in the Report is that "The contract price was $8,857.00." Whatever the actual cost was is doubtless included under the general term of "Permanent Works."

The Council takes credit that a smaller amount was spent under the title of "Street Maintenance" but what do we find but the fact that all replacements and reconstructions and repairs to worn out asphalt surfacing to the extent of $8,253.69 has been charged to Capital Account. This amount also is included in "Permanent Works" although it is a yearly expenditure and should be provided for in Current Account. What do our Chartered Accountants think of such expenditures.

The Council has made much ado to persuade the citizens that its financial management has been excellent and that it has been economical—that "economy" has been the watchword. Well here is the picture as gleaned from the printed report:

1. The highest revenue ever to be collected.
2. A deficit on the year's transactions.
3. New Debentures issued for at least $317,000.00.
4. Overdraft Royal Bank of Canada, Civic Account, December 31st, 1940—$40,073.11.
5. No information as to price at which Debentures were sold nor as to interest rate.

I am, Sir, etc.,
WARD FIVE

How Old Is Ann?

(Globe and Mail)

Moses numbered the children of Israel in the fifteenth century, B. C. MacKenzie King is going to number not only the children of Canada but the birds and beasts and flowers as well. On June. 2 seventeen thousand census enumerators, presumably all good Liberals, will sally forth with armfuls of nine different kinds of forms for the decennial stocktaking of the Canadian people, designed to show from the widest angle the point that has been reached in the general progress of the nation The census has been called "the largest single act of administration of the Government." This particular counting of heads is to cost nearly $5,000,000.

Now the idea of taking a census generally speaking is a good one. Without it according to the pundits, legislation and administration would be carried on in the dark and there would be no means of knowing whether the country was on the road to success or disaster But we wonder what the farmers are going to say when the enumerator presents them with a form containing 167 questions which would fill a whole page in this newspaper.

The farmers have been told, and rightly, that they must produce, that they are our second line of defense, etc. They must maintain production to feed the fighting forces and the people of Britain. They have been busy plowing and seeding ever since they could get on land. They will probably be busy on June 2. Are they to stop work all over Canada to answer eight-score questions and fill out a form that might well baffle a chartered accountant? Unless they have kept minute records they are going to get a headache.

To the layman, the form to be filled out by the farmers appears to have been hatched at a conference of statisticians who burned the midnight oil all winter It suggests a conspiracy of nitwittery. There are the customary questions about farm population, acreage, values, machinery, mortgages crops, production. Then follow scores of questions which are apt to strike busy farmers as frivolous. For example:

Number of goats on this farm
Beeswax produced in 1940.
Maple trees tapped in 1941.
Wild cranberries harvested.
Wild blueberries harvested.

Broadly speaking, we think the Dominion Bureau of Statistics is one of the most efficient branches of the Dominion Government. If anything, it is too efficient. The Canada Year Book and other reports which it issues in tremendous quantities are the best of their kind in the world. But what are the hard-pressed farmers and the business institutions of Canada which spend much of their time filling out Government forms going to say about this latest Anthony Adverse of questionnaires?

We trust the census is going to be more useful in defeating Hitler than the costly national registration which Hon. James Gardiner dressed up last year.

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A THOUGHT A DAY FOR A PEOPLE AT WAR

"Once we accept the fact that we are at war—even though it be undeclared—we shall at last find a peace within ourselves which can never come as long as we seek safety at the cost of others' sacrifice." — Manifesto of "The Fight for Freedom Committee", New York.

Who Was Robin Hood?

(Christian Science Monitor)

One May morning, when Norman England was young, there fled into the confines of Sherwood Forest, according to the old ballads, a young man destined for centuries to be the idol of oppressed people everywhere. Hero of countless stories and figure around which fierce, periodic literary controversies have been waged, Robin Hood became a symbol of the idea which demanded from the Norman oppressors such fundamental conceptions of democracy as trial by jury, the Magna Charta, and the Parliamentary representative system.

At the beginning of the twelfth century when the few great oaks that now represent Sherwood Forest were saplings, that forest covered the whole western part of Nottinghamshire. Like the other forests of the realm it was a Crown possession reserved for the pleasure of the Norman king and the ruling class, a privilege enforced severely by law against any Saxon who dared to disregard it. It was safer for a Saxon to commit any crime in the calendar than it was for him to poach upon the king's deer.

Tricked into breaking the harsh forest law runs the legend Robin found a safe refuge in the deep a merry band of outlaws that have glades and surrounded himself with rollicked their way through the pages of literature and before the footlights ever since. The struggle between the Norman Sheriff of Nottingham who is the villain of the stories and Robin Hood, a Saxon, is not the tale of the law versus a mob of gangsters, but a conflict of ways of living, of races, and of ideas, the struggle of liberty against oppression.

The very essence of democracy is the spirit of fair play, and Robin Hood stands in literature as the perfect hero no weak visionary but a stout yeoman who can twirl a quarter-staff or split a willow twig at forty paces with a gray-goose shaft. At all times, Robin maintains his status as a true gentleman. Even in the most famous of all the stories, he is satisfied with a revenge that is mild for the Middle Ages, especially on one who would have sent the outlaw to the gallows. In an effort to capture Robin Hood, the Sheriff of Nottingham holds an archery contest. Meeting guile with guile, Robin disguised as a ragged stranger wins the grand prize, and returns safely to the glades of Sherwood. His revenge consists merely of shooting a bunted arrow among the dishes on the Sheriff's table Attached to the arrow is this sentiment:

Now heaven bless thy grace this day,
Say all in sweet Sherwood;
For thou didst give the prize away
To merry Robin Hood.

At Runnymede in the year 1215 King John, arch foe of Robin Hood and all he stood for, signed the Magna Charta and handed over to the people of England rights which they have never relinquished. Ten years later the harsh forestry law was relaxed, when Henry III signed the Charta de Foresta. By these acts, England was well started on the road to democracy at a time when the rest of Europe was to remain for centuries in the slough of thralldom.

Who was the real Robin Hood? He left a legend behind him. A score of real localities carry his name to this day.

Today it is as difficult to find the true Robin Hood as it was for the Sheriff of Nottingham to track down the legendary outlaw. Since the sixteenth century he has puzzled writers and researchers. No iron-clad evidence has been presented to prove that he did exist. Many of the stories that are associated with him are pure legends; but in the Middle Ages fact and fiction were blended unhesitatingly. Charlemagne and Alexander the Great were true historical personages, yet in the romances of the Middle Ages they were endowed with powers far more supernatural than any bestowed on Robin Hood. His exploits hardly ever pass beyond the border of slightly exaggerated reality. In medieval fable Virgil was a magician; Robert MacGregor or Rob Roy was a real character, yet myth has begun already to confuse the facts about his career.

Some writers say that Robin was a mythical forest elf who appears also in the literature of other countries, but this similarity is due to the fact that he stole from the rich to give to poor. English ballad writers from the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries gave the name of Robin Hood to any robber leader who opposed the forest laws and was an accomplished bowman. To the Cumberland outlaws, Adam Bel, Cly of the Clough, and William of Cloudisdale, are attributed most of the characteristics and many of the adventures of Robin Hood.

Those who incline towards the view that there was a real Robin Hood point to the fact that the songs of Robin Hood were well-known and popular by the year 1362. Some think that there is a reference to him in the second edition of Piers Plowman which appeared in 1377. At any rate the story is full-grown by this time. In the Rolls of Parliament there is a direct reference to him in a petition presented in 1437 for the arrest of a robber, Piers Venables, who went into the woods "like as it had been Robin Hood and his meyne."

There is no basis for the fable that Robin Hood became the Earl of Huntingdon, as has been advanced popularly by story and cinema, but history does offer some slight hint that he might have been the third Randle, Earl of Chester, who lived in the reigns of Richard I, John, and Henry III.

History has one other important reference to a Robin Hood but this occurred later in the reign of Edward II. Supposedly Robin was a follower of the Earl of Lancaster who was in revolt against the king. When the rebellion failed many of the rebels fled to the forests and lived as outlaws. Edward II was tall, handsome, an athlete, and "one who delighted in the company of inferiors." In short having the same attributes that have been credited to Richard the Lion-Hearted in the Robin Hood stories. This reference mentioned is an exchequer document to show that "one Robyn Hode" received payment as a "vadlet" or "porteur du chambre." In this document, however, there is nothing to prove that he had any connection with the outlaw, and this name was common in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Most writers of fiction, including Sir Walter Scott, place Robin Hood in the three reigns mentioned previously.

No one can truly say whether the suit of Lincoln green clothed a fact or a fancy, but to all those who love adventure he still strolls blithely through the shades of Sherwood Forest to plague the Sheriff of Nottingham. We must all admire Robin Hood, especially him who, in the words of Scott's Black Knight, "does good, having the unlimited power to do evil, deserving praise not only for the good which he performs, but for the evil which he forbears."

MILK IN BRITAIN

In Great Britain the use of milk, condensed milk, and milk powders is prohibited in the manufacture of biscuits, bread, buns, pastries, rolls, scones, and other similar articles, ice cream, sweetmeats (including chocolate and other sugar confectionery), synthetic cream, and soft and cured cheese. The order is meant to conserve the milk supply to the consumer.

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