

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 1943

Used Farm Machinery

Opposition members are continually giving helpful suggestions to the Dominion Government. One of them emanated the other day from Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker, Conservative member for Lake Centre, who called the attention of the Minister of National War Services to a matter having to do with the present shortage of farm machinery. A campaign is under way in the United States to collect usable farm machinery not in use and to assemble it under government supervision. It is then distributed among the farmers in need of it. Has any consideration been given to a similar campaign in Canada? he asked. While the quota on farm machinery has been increased, there will still be a shortage and it could be met in this way if the government took the initiative.

The Minister, General LaFleche, said he had heard nothing about the subject mentioned by the hon. member and was not quite certain that it would properly come under National War Services. However, he promised to look into it immediately.

Our farmers are not concerned with what department it comes under. There is no question about the suggestion being a most valuable one.

Maritime Rights Ignored

How the Maritime Provinces have been deprived of their rights under the British North America Act for the benefit of the Central Provinces is told trenchantly by Mr. J. H. Conlon, New Brunswick tobacco commissioner, in an article published in the Saint John Telegraph-Journal. The article was prepared at the request of representatives of a Montreal paper (who saw fit not to use it) and is based on information prepared by that indefatigable spokesman for Maritime rights, Dr. A. P. Paterson, formerly New Brunswick minister of education and federal and municipal relations.

Among other things, the article emphasizes that as part of the agreements of Confederation the Intercolonial Railway was built to enable the Maritimes to trade on a parity with the other provinces, and the Great Northwest as compensation for the loss of foreign markets. With Union the control over foreign trade was surrendered to federal authority.

What actually happened? The all-British lines of communication to the Atlantic seaboard were never used to carry all Canada's overseas traffic or even the major part. Montreal, in summer, and United States ports all the year continued and still continue to handle the bulk of our peacetime Atlantic export and import traffic. Maritime ports remain little more than a threat, receiving but a dribble of traffic in winter months only.

To add insult to injury Canadian government capital to the tune of more than six hundred million dollars is invested in railways, port facilities and auxiliary enterprises in the United States along the eastern seaboard, and these very facilities carry the traffic that we in the Maritimes were supposed to handle. Among the duties and responsibilities assigned to federal authority by agreement of the provinces is "to regulate trade and commerce." For a good many years the Intercolonial Railway with its management at Moncton did operate on the principle that traffic originating in the Maritime Provinces should enjoy rates that would enable producers and merchants to lay down their goods in other parts of Canada to sell on a competitive basis. That policy terminated in 1918 or thereabouts when the management of the Intercolonial was removed from Moncton and merged with other government-owned and government-controlled railways. Thereafter the situation became so bad that the Duncan Royal Commission was appointed to study the question. The Maritime Freight Rates Act resulted, giving a measure of relief. By constant nibbling, however, the effects of the remedial measures have been largely vitiated.

In addition, local initiative and enterprise attempting to build secondary industries are quickly squelched as soon as they show signs of vigor. How? To some extent by buying out but to a large degree by dumping competitive products on the market to destroy the local competition or by temporarily inflating the price of the raw material until the local menace is removed.

Ottawa has recognized these inequalities from time to time by paying subsidies to the Maritime Provinces. But money grants, attractive as the immediate appeal may appear, will no longer be acceptable as compensation for a paralyzed economy. They may be accepted because money is hard to resist. But in the minds and hearts of the people the sense of grievance will persist. Nothing short of backtracking to the letter and spirit of our constitution will dispel the deep-seated conviction that our Maritimes have been cheated.

What about post-war prospects? "We have no newly constructed war plants to be converted to peacetime production," says Mr.

Conlon. "Our folk must return to essentially the same factors that constituted the background of our pre-war economy. Without reform measures national in character the outlook is not propitious. Given appropriate redress, native ingenuity, initiative and enterprise will seek and find opportunity at home. The removal of handicaps will open the door for an enlarged fishing industry built on modern principles, the expansion and improvement of agriculture and secondary units established to process crops that do not reach the markets in the fresh state, a wider use of our forest potentials and diversity of auxiliary units for the manufacture of wood products. Industries in general would no longer flow to the centre of the country to the exclusion of other sections. Decentralization would gradually distribute benefits to all parts and the inevitable tendency would be to equalize the economic status of the provinces. Trade would flow through Canadian ports and the wages sustaining others would accrue to the benefit of Canadian workers."

'Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished. But first and foremost it will be necessary to have Maritime federal and provincial representatives with backbone. So long as governments at Ottawa are able to wield the big stick over supine party supporters, we shall always be hevers of wood and drawers of water for the more powerful and influential provinces. This has been notably the case under the present federal administration, which with unlimited funds and patronage at its disposal insists on retaining the old pre-war premium on party politics.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Evidently no let up of wetness in this otherwise supposedly dry province.

A cordial welcome is being extended to the members of the Canadian Seed Growers Association now holding sessions at St. Dunstan's University.

Mussolini is quoted as saying: "All foreigners who cannot justify their presence in Italy should be sent back to their own countries." This reference might be to the abnormal number of Germans in Italy, of whom the Italians are sick.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been lost by farmers in the vicinity of Montreal due to destruction of their growing crops by rain. At least fifty farms on the Island of Montreal and in other vicinities were still flooded—some of them entirely and others only partially—last week a checkup of farm communities disclosed.

According to Canadian Press Munitions Minister Howe—and all other members—joined in laughter in the House of Commons when Rev. Dan McIvor (Lib., Fort William) said he thought the minister was "pretty well loaded." When the laughter ceased, Mr. McIvor said he appreciated the opposition's sense of humor but he had meant the minister was loaded with work. "I'm surprised he can take as much as he did," continued Mr. McIvor—amid another gale of laughter. "Where were you last night?" one member asked.

George V, father of our present sovereign, crowned King in succession to his father, Edward VII, this date, 1911, as Duke of York, he entered the House of Lords in 1893, and on July 6 the same year married Princess Victoria Mary of Teck (now the Queen Mother); had six children, the Duke of Windsor, King George VI, Princess Mary, Countess of Harewood, Prince Henry William, Duke of Gloucester, Prince George Edward, late Duke of Kent, Prince John Charles, died in 1919.

Major James Clark, Speaker of the Ontario Legislature, says the Montreal Gazette, has not only got himself in wrong with his province, he has got his province in the same unhappy position with its neighbors. Ontario has prided itself upon its strong and deeply rooted pro-British sentiment, planted there by the U. E. Loyalists, whose numerous descendants like to regard themselves as citizens of Canada's banner province. As a matter of fact, judging by his actions, his heavy vote against the 1911 reciprocity agreement—suspected of being an annexation instrument—and by its splendid contributions of men and money and material in this war and in the last, it has had some reason to pride itself upon its patriotism. Hence, when the Speaker of its Legislature takes part in a United States round table radio discussion (Detroit, Mich.) and proclaims that 40 to 45 per cent of Canadian citizens including himself would favor a political union with the United States if asked to vote on the question now, the provincial roof manifests a tendency to blow off.

By design health is made the first phase of education which the Survey Committee of the Canadian and Newfoundland Education Association deals with in its review of education in Canada, and which review forms part of the data confided to Principal F. Cyril James of McGill University, chairman of the Advisory Committee on Reconstruction. "Healthy children are public assets; sickly ones are liabilities," and the committee does not think that physical education is a matter of turning out athletes. An adequate health program for the nation will require an estimated \$20,000,000 a year, made up of \$200,000 for an immediate investigation of conditions; special grants to stimulate health instruction, \$1,000,000; medical examinations and dental examinations and care, immunization and nursing services \$17,000,000 and \$2,000,000 for school lunches. The survey finds that already, many admirable public health agencies, staffed by capable and trained officials, have been set up throughout the Dominion, and municipal boards of health, provincial departments of health and the Dominion Department of Pensions and Health are all engaged at the present time in enterprises and schemes of far-reaching importance.

Notes By The Way

When Hitler and Mussolini used to meet at the Brenner Pass, the world used to hold its breath and wonder what was being planned next. When they meet now, it is Hitler and Mussolini's turn to do the breathing. —From the Ottawa Citizen.

A lot is being heard of "amphibious" operations, but actually the word is only two-thirds correct to describe the coming activities. "Amphibious" is the adjective from the noun "amphibia," which means animals capable of living both under water and on land. The amphibious operations soon to come will be water, land and air operations. —Ottawa Citizen.

I hate Spring. Spring lures me out with such a turn on the shower. Spring blows my umbrella inside out. Spring melts the crease out of my lawfullyuffed trousers. Spring puts mud on the shine I hoped would last a week. Spring lets the furnace die down and brings the shivers. Spring gives me rheumatism and makes me break. I hate Spring. —Toronto Star.

After the war has been won there will, undoubtedly, be a new era of international dependence. Otherwise the war will have been fought in vain. Canada will be in a position to trade with many countries in a mutually beneficial way. We produce things they cannot produce and they produce things we cannot produce. There is a vast field for trade with Mexico and the countries to the south of the present land. But trade is not all that counts. There is also a vast field in which to cement good relations and mutual respect that will be a bulwark against the threat of aggression in the future. —Fort St. James Times Journal.

Life raft survivors will now be able to send an SOS over 100,000 square miles of the ocean even though ignorant of the Morse code says Pathfinder. A newly developed portable radio transmitter, known as the "Gibson Girl" to plane crews because of its bird-like appearance, has a hand crank which the operator can turn to send a continuous distress signal as a guide for searchers. The aerial is held aloft by hydrogen-filled balloons or by kites. Army signal corps aircraft radio laboratory at Wright Field and Navy Aviation collaborated in the development of his transmission equipment.

The Manitoba Department of Health has issued figures which show it considers the rat an expensive luxury. According to their figures a rat costs the public a year to keep in food. It is supposed that the rat population equals the human. That seems to imply that Winnipeg spends in the neighborhood of half a million dollars a year dining rats. Rather a large cheque to pay for guests who are liable to start an epidemic at the drop of a hat. —Winnipeg Tribune.

Juan Trippe, president of Pan-American Airways, has predicted that within 65 days passenger liners planned by his company will be able to take us to London in 10 hours for \$100. That is to say with a 20 per cent vacation and as little as 2000 passengers will be possible to spend an entire week in Great Britain or even, for a few dollars more, to toss in a visit to the Continent. The cost of the trip will cost that much, sea trips should be still less. The good old days are gone forever—thank heaven. —New Glasgow News.

A London item says that a British Army officer of high rank who acted as escort to the Axis generals in the stone, two men are charged with them to this country, was not greatly impressed by the German members of the party. With one exception, the artist, he found them rather of the ordinary type of person. "What the British officer apparently wishes to indicate is that he found no suggestions or symptoms of the more touchy among the Africa Korps brass hats. On the other hand, the Italians were far more impressive intellectually, and besides, much more pleasant manners. Yet one German man captured in the final Tunisian battle, when requested to get into a party with some Italian officers, exclaimed: "Donnerwetter! Soll ich mit diesem dreck fahren!" which being interpreted means: "Hades! Have I got to travel with that truck!" Britantist fans, these German paladins! —Amherst News.

A mug of cocoa made from water distilled from the oily Thames was handed up to me from a lifeboat yesterday. It was hot and tasty. But it was much more than a hot drink. The more I ate of it, the more I was reminded of the fact that two of the shipwrecked seaman's worst enemies, thirst and cold, had been conquered. For the first time in my life I felt warm and comfortable. The stove looked like a small bathroom seyer, but it was not my first experience. Bricquettes stuffed into odd corners of the boat, damp wood, paraffin and distillate half a gallon of fresh water an hour. Painted on the still are instructions on how to make hot drinks to dry clothes, heat blankets—and an oily rag will give off a dense smoke signal if burned in the stove. Two men are charged with responsible for the new device. They are Mr. James A. Mulhern, a 70-year-old Liverpool engineer, and George Keenan, a 35-year-old Board of Trade surveyor who lives at Great Crosby, near Liverpool. Their initials "K. M." have been combined to give the device its name. The worked for several days their efforts sustained and energized by the achievement of a chief engineer who rigged up a still from a petrol can and a biscuit tin and burning kerosene, kept his crew alive for 19 days until they were rescued. I was given other good news of the progress made in the struggle to save life at sea. Life saving waistcoats are fitted with rope near to ease the work of rescue. Portable ladders will help men climb into the boats. The fat content of the biscuits provided has been trebled—from 4 per cent to 12 per cent—to make them more palatable and increase resistance to exposure. Preparations for renewing fuel oil are furnished, and side-station extensions will enable men to sit full length. —London Daily Mail.



AGONY OF ISRAEL

Bow your heads, all ye nations, And humble yourselves, all ye peoples. In the presence of sorrow un-speakable At the sight of anguish beyond measure; For the sons of Israel are slaughtered all the day long, And the daughters of Jerusalem are violated and slain. And the synagogue is burned in the fire, The place where the congregation is utterly destroyed.

These are the people of Jehovah, The folk of the Ancient Covenant, Who were spread throughout the earth And were scattered among the nations. Sojourners among many peoples, And dwellers in Kingdoms far from Zion. Yet they rendered good to the alien And comfort to men of many races, Seeking out cures for the ills of the flesh, And healing for the bodies of mankind.

But the hangmen of Haman have risen up, And a greater than Haman has a man whose heart is filled with darkness, Whose reins run evil, And he has proposed to destroy them all, To cause them utterly to perish.

Therefore let the nations gathered against Haman, The peoples who war against the Agagite, Swear mightily to avenge the blood of the guiltless. To serve Haman as he has served Israel. And let us offer refuge to a remnant of the people, To the fugitive from murder, That the guilt of his death be not upon us. The mark of his death upon our door-sill: For we are all bound up together in the bundle of sin. And the Lord God will require the blood of the guiltless. Both from him that slays and from him that stays not the slayer. In the day of blood, In the day of the desolation of Israel. —Watson Kirkconnell.

The Judas Of France

(Sydney Post Record) The spirit of treason seems to me to be rising in the soul of Pierre Laval, even in inverse proportion to the rising fortunes of his Axis masters. Since the most recent Axis reversals Laval has been more active in his traitorous "collaboration" with his country's deadliest enemy than at any time prior to his appointment as stooge-in-chief for Adolf Hitler at Vichy. Laval's energies are now devoted to rounding up of young Frenchmen to work in German munitions plants. But a dispatch from Bern, Switzerland, says the French cabinet has decided that a law would come into effect this week empowering the government to seek out and punish all who are taking definite or facilitated evasion of labor regulations.

Laval's programme for the reinforcement of Hitler's war factory workers is said to be the providing by June 30 of 22,000 additional workers, this being the number of days ago that French youth were offering resistance on all sides to compulsory labor in Germany. Laval himself, the Vichy cabinet council that a law would come into effect this week empowering the government to seek out and punish all who are taking definite or facilitated evasion of labor regulations.

Will The Balkans Crack?

(Hamilton Spectator) One of the signs of increasing strain, and perhaps a symptom of fatal weakness, is the European Axis seen in the reports of peace overtures which are being heard on the Continent. Some of these rumors are no doubt inspired by the fact that the German-Russian pact is being broken up. It is obviously intended to sow disunity among the Allies and make them suspicious of each other. Berlin is not likely to leave the United Nations by such clumsy tactics; and London's assurance that the Swedish report of a peace overture should carry weight. The report from Turkey, that Rumania is seeking outright peace and is ready to supply the usual conditions to the Allies, may also prove to have no foundation in fact. What appears to give it some colour of substance are the terms which Ion Antonescu, Rumanian Chief of State, is credited with being willing to have imposed on his country. Rumania is said to have asked for an armistice that would spare her from being bombed or attacked by Allied land forces. She faces a possible offensive on the east from Russia, and the prospect of invasion by British forces from bases in the eastern Mediterranean. Not without significance, either, is the circumstance that just at a time when Antonescu is reported to have taken this step, Berlin betrays its concern over Axis solidar-

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