

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1941.

Fine Island Record

As intimated yesterday in a despatch from Ottawa, Prince Edward Island's response to Canada's call for men has been so enthusiastic and complete that the need for a permanent Royal Canadian Air Force recruiting centre has disappeared. The centre will consequently be closed on Dec. 31, but there will be provision for further recruiting by the operation of mobile recruiting units, which will tour the Province at regular intervals.

The Ottawa despatch also notes that of Prince Edward Island's 88,000 population, nearly 7,000 men have enlisted in the active forces.

What does this mean? Applying our Island enlistment record to the whole Dominion, it means that we should now have about one million men in Canada's active forces. This would be equivalent to about sixty army divisions.

This is a record of which Prince Edward Island may well be proud. But what of Canada as a whole, and of the complacent statements issued from time to time by government spokesmen with regard to recruiting totals?

The Christmas Spirit

Today's issue of The Guardian contains special Christmas features, illustrations and advertisements in accord with time-honored tradition. We recommend them to our readers, old and young, for their tonic value in these harrowing times. We need more than ever today a breathing-spell, such as the Christmas season affords, to refresh our troubled spirits. It is not inconsistent with our sternest wartime duties to celebrate it as joyously and wholeheartedly as possible. As R. L. Stevenson pointed out, and Dickens emphasized in more than one immortal Christmas story, no duty is so sadly underrated as the duty of being happy. It means shedding our selfish cares and preoccupations, and extending our interest and sympathies to all around us. This is the Christmas spirit, the very symbol of the things for which we are fighting.

Gift giving must of necessity be curtailed this Christmas in so far as expensive luxuries are concerned; but there is a wide choice of bargain goods on the shelves of our local merchants. Outside the circle of one's intimate friends and family there are always others to be remembered. No circle should be too small to exclude from remembrance one or more members of our gallant service forces, at home or abroad. There are also the long established channels for charitable giving, such as the Free Dispensary, the Salvation Army, the Infirmary, the hospitals and orphanages, which have special claims upon us at this time.

There are now only nine more shopping days before Christmas, little enough time to complete one's shopping chores before the tiresome last-minute rush begins.

The Delay In South York

Writs for four federal by-elections, including South York, have at last been issued, the elections to take place on Monday, Feb. 9. A spokesman for the Prime Minister's office is quoted as stating that the dates selected "are the earliest possible under the law." That, of course, is due to the fact that the writs were not issued sooner.

The Liberals of South York having decided not to oppose the election of Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen as successor to Major Cockeram, it is difficult to understand why the Government delayed the issue of the writ for this by-election. As the Globe and Mail points out, the Speaker of the House of Commons was notified about two weeks ago that Major Cockeram had resigned and the formalities required by the law could have been complied with in a few hours if the Government were anxious to facilitate the admission of Mr. Meighen to the Commons Chamber, where his leadership is urgently required.

Unfortunately, the delay which has already occurred will prevent the Conservative Leader from being present during the first week of the new session of Parliament.

The Toronto exchange recalls that when Mr. King himself was chosen Leader of the Liberal Party on Aug. 7, 1919, he was accorded an acclamation on Oct. 20 of the same year, entered the House three days later, and made his maiden speech as Leader of the Opposition during the Grand Trunk Pacific debate. The Conservatives made no attempt to keep him outside the House. If there has been a deliberate plot now to delay the entry of Mr. Meighen to the place to which he has been called, all fair-minded people in Canada will disapprove.

No More Isolation Talk

With the bombing of Hawaii and other Pacific outposts of the United States, the last vestige of isolation has disappeared overnight

among the American people. They now realize, as perhaps many of them never did before, that their President was right in his foreign policy, and that in constantly warning them against the treachery and designs of the aggressors he was seeking to arouse them to a sense of the peril that rings their country and their way of life. They now know, if they did not previously, that this is world war, with world conquest and the subjugation of free peoples the cold-blooded objective which the gangsters are bent on achieving.

The war may shift to two main theatres—North Africa and the Pacific. But, as the New York Times emphasizes, the American people should not lose sight of the fact that Hitler is still the real enemy of mankind; the decisive battle for freedom will be fought out in the English Channel, and not in the Pacific. If Hitler is defeated, the aggression of Japan will be solved in its own way, if not sooner. This is sound advice; for Japan, despite her naval and air strength, appears to be no more than a puppet in Berlin's hands.

The free world is moving quickly and solidly against Japan as the several declarations of war testify, including Britain, Australia and Canada. This week's events bring the conflict closer to this continent and they will call for sterner sacrifices on the part of the Canadian people. The gangsters are now all on the march and, if freedom is to survive, the free peoples will have to make a total effort for total war.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Another week gone, and little more than another till Christmas.

Don't forget to send Christmas greetings, they help to win the war.

We hope you will like our special Christmas edition published in connection with this issue. It is likely to be the last for some years.

How thankful those in voluntary employment should be that they are not like those in conquered countries compelled to slave for Hitler in the production of munitions of war.

The Patriot offers sound advice to autoists to avoid following beaten tracks in the streets, and thus help to make a pavement free from ruts.

With reference to the proposed curfew law and the example supposed to be set by parents, a correspondent reminds us that "a bachelor's wife and an old maid's children are always the pink of perfection." Alas, and also alack!

A letter from a soldier overseas this week contained the following sentence: "When the mail arrives there is a rush for letters, papers and parcels, and, oh, the disappointment of those to whom the postal clerk replies—"nothing for you!"

Attention of fox ranchers is especially directed to our Fox Notes in this issue, where the good news is given of a phenomenal advance in prices for silver foxes at the combined auction sales in London—a 100 per cent advance on last year.

Evidently Italy is now feeding on horse flesh. The newspaper Tribune attributed the rising price of horses, mules and donkeys to the great demand—caused by the scarcity of beef and mutton. The newspaper said the slaughter of horses must be controlled "in order to safeguard the national equine patrimony."

The U. S. Wheeler, Hearsts and all that Anti-British kidney are now falling over one another in their determination to have an "all out" war policy. Isn't it heart-sickening, when but for their attitude we would have long since been in a better position to meet the enemy with both trained men and the necessary munitions?

H. R. H. the Duchess of Kent, G. B. E., born this date, 1906; was Princess Marina of Greece and Denmark; is Honorary-Colonel the Buckingham Battalion of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry; has two children, H. R. H. Prince Edward George Nicholas Paul Patrick, born Oct. 9, 1935; and H. R. H. Princess Alexandra Helen Elizabeth Olga Christabel, born December 25, 1936.

This is a little cynicism from "The Little Flower" of New York: "I want to assure all persons who have been sneering and jeering at defense activities and even those who have been objecting to them and placing obstacles in their path, that we will protect them now," the Mayor said. "But we expect their cooperation and there will be no fooling."

Resemblances between statements by Lindbergh and Hitler, some of them complete parallels even to the actual phrasing, were shown recently. Other examples of like nature abound. The similarity between expressions used by Lindbergh and passages in the book in which Dr. Alexis Carrel some years ago revealed his sympathy with Fascism, has been commented upon by American writers Dr. Carrel and Lindbergh, it will be recalled, for some years lived and worked together, carrying out scientific experiments, on an island off the coast of Brittany. Dr. Carrel is now somewhere in unoccupied France doing chores for Petain and Darlan. Von Ribbentrop now reveals himself as another twin soul to Lindbergh. In an address to the puppet and jackal Quislings who were ordered to put in an appearance recently in Berlin, he put the responsibility for the war on Britain and France because they joined with Poland in resisting Germany's eastward aggression in 1939. This was the burden of Mr. Lindbergh's recent speech in New York. These complaints that no resistance should have been offered to Nazi aggression sound the same and are in almost identical terms coming from the twin Nazis.

NOTES BY THE WAY

"The Fascist beast is bleeding to death!" Moscow Radio taunted the other day. The monster is bleeding certainly, with a copiousness which must be alarming to Hitler; but he is still enormously savage and strong. In fact, the three-months' campaign, if it has revealed Russia's unexpected vigorous powers of resistance, has also demonstrated the colossal striking-force of the German military machine. This battle of giants, in which tanks and aeroplanes have been consumed by the millions, and in which the lesson of the decisive importance of material in modern war. How long—supposing the Nazis had not crazily hurried themselves out of Russia to have taken over the British Empire, backed by American industry, to create the armaments needed to match and master the "mechanized Axis" now lagging in East? — Sydney Herald (Australia).

The Nazis are hard bargainers, and they have most of the cards now. Petain has thrown away his face and Weygand, who has the prisoners, more than a million and a half. Few persons in this country seem to understand what this means to the French people. The German-controlled press in Paris continually plays on the feelings of the families: "If only the men of Vichy would 'collaborate' wholeheartedly, you would get your husbands, your sons, and brothers back." The removal of Weygand, we now see, was the Germans' answer to the British offensive in Libya. I cannot believe that the British really feared Weygand, but they had to make sure that in the event of collapse in Libya and Tripoli their troops could withdraw into Tunisia. And they wanted to prepare faster than Weygand would allow for the day when they will take everything over down to Dakar. — Jay Allen in The Nation (New York).

In London a few weeks ago General de Gaulle, head of the Free French forces, indicated something of the armaments he believed it would be necessary to pick up to win the war. He mentioned that 100,000 tanks would be required and 100,000 aeroplanes and perhaps 50,000,000 tons of shipping. These are large figures but not nearly as large as they would be if they were General de Gaulle kept his figures as low as he could so as not to alarm public thinking and yet sufficiently far ahead of what is actually being done. In the present, in actual fact, the 100,000 tanks and 100,000 aeroplanes are only a small portion of what will be required. As far back as 1938 the Star-Phoenix commented that it was time for military authorities to begin thinking of war planes in terms of hundreds of thousands, where they were then thinking in terms of tens of thousands. The figure of loss on the Russian front, one begins to get an idea of the quantities of material that will be required. There tanks are counted in tens of thousands and there is a 2,000-mile front. By the time the front has extended from the Caucasus around south of the Mediterranean to the Atlantic or when a western front is opened up, the quantities of material required will be needed all at the same time. And if that force is to be maintained then production of tanks at a rate of 100,000 a year or even more will be necessary. — Saskatoon Star-Phoenix.

From Scotland comes comforting evidence of the faith which men have in the future of their country. At a recent sale of Ayrshire cattle from the world-famous Lessnessock herd of A. W. Montgomerie prices paid by English and Scotch breeders are being the highest average for an Ayrshire sale within the past quarter century. This is a country with the threat of invasion and bombing constantly hanging over it. According to a cable report of this great annual auction of fine dairy cattle received in Ottawa by Mr. Frank Napper, secretary of the Canadian Ayrshire Breeders' Association, the total for 52 young animals sold at the Lessnessock sale was \$62,902.92. Thirty young bulls averaged about \$1,245 each and 22 young heifers about \$1,015 each. The highest price paid for a bull calf at the sale was \$8,477, and for a young female \$2,633. The farmers of the United Kingdom must feel secure in their future, and be willing to pay such prices for young animals. Faith such as that may be difficult for some to understand but it is an insight into the determination of the great people of the world for those who must be leaders in one of the great industries. Mr. Montgomerie is well known in Canada and many animals from his noted herd are to be found on Canadian farms. — Ottawa Journal.

Every man in this country between the ages of 16 and 70 should be taught to handle a rifle, machine gun and bomb. There should be only one reason or excuse for exemption—genuine physical incapacity to handle any arm. Duty of this kind should be compulsory and universal. The penalty for evasion should be imprisonment. The necessary order is well within the powers of the Government, and there is no reason why the issue of this order and its enforcement should not be completed in a week. Such is the lesson we must learn from Russia and from the present state of the war. In Russia, which has much to teach us in efficiency and in the conception of service to the State, this obligation is accepted. In Kiev or Leningrad or Moscow when the enemy is at the gates, citizens do not run about in helpless circles or hold indignation meetings to denounce their rulers and controllers or get supinely in the way. They take a weapon from their own armory or from dead friend or foe and turn it on the Hun. They defend their cities and sell their lives. —London Sunday Express.

The week ending November 15 was not a bad one for colds either in the United States or Canada. It was probably just an ordinary week so far as the incidence of "nuisance" ailments was concerned, having regard to the time of the year. Yet a Gallup poll taken during that period revealed that an estimated 18,000,000 people in the United States were suffering from colds; or every seventh person had one. This was an increase of 5,000,000 cases compared with the week ending October 11. It may be taken for granted, of course, that the winter months are the "favorite" period for colds. The U. S. National Association of Manufacturers estimates that the annual loss through colds is at least \$2,000,000. — Straiford Beacon Herald.

The Gateways To Oil

(Branford Expositor) The two gateways which guard the Caucasus oil fields are Rostov and Kerch, and in the vicinity of these strongly fortified places desperate battles are taking place. The German high command has gone so far as to claim that Rostov, as well as Kerch, has already been captured, but the claim appears to be premature, although there has been hand to hand fighting in the streets. Rostov is a city with a population of half a million, and it is an important industrial and railroad centre. A city of such dimensions would be a rich prize in itself, but inasmuch as it is one of the gateways to Russia's oil fields it gains additional significance. It is the terminus of a great pipeline to the Caspian Sea. Even if the Russians should lose this vital city, they will not be cut off from the oil supplies, but they would have to be sent north over a difficult and circuitous route. Rostov is the key which unlocks the first corridor to the vast Baku fields. However if the Germans do capture these two cities, the prospect before them is not a pleasant one. The Kerch strait is a formidable barrier, though it is only from two to three miles wide at its narrowest points. The only servicable port on the other side is Tamansk, twenty miles by water from Kerch. Beyond this port stretch two narrow defiles through swamp land. As the Russians from the outset of the conflict have understood the object of the German drive in this direction, they have erected strong barriers to their advance, and the German armies would have to fight bitterly for any progress they might make in this difficult terrain. Moreover, it is probable that Marshal Timoshenko has not been idle in strengthening his defenses. The British advance upon Libya would seem to indicate that the British are now confident that the Russians can hold these gateways until the Germans and Italians are cleaned out of North Africa. It is to be hoped that this will prove to be true.

"Sir, For The Love Of God"

(New York Herald Tribune) "Sir, for the love of God and our country, let us have with some speed some great shot sent us of all business; for this service will continue long; and some powder with it." It is the motto of the disposition, according to "The Economist," which recalls it in its current issue, was July 1588; it was sent by Lord Howard of Effingham, the Lord Admiral of England, at the Old World, Alaska has high strategic value in the present crisis, and the Trail of '98 may yet become another road to freedom should we break out in the Pacific. In other words, Alaska is a doorway into Asia; likewise it is a doorway for European aggressors to enter North America. But for their benefit and for the peace of mind of North American peoples, it can now be stressed that this passage, now so hotly and so earnestly guarded, should the emergency arise, however, it can be swung open on the instant and troops conveyed over the Bering Strait, to wherever they might be needed. The Pacific coast of this continent, from the Panama Canal on the south to the northern tip of Alaska, is now protected by adequate defenses. Air lines with bases and landing fields at vital points, are the chief form of safeguard. The long gap that existed between the American border and Alaska has been completed after months of hard work on the part of Canadian engineers and men used to pioneer conditions. A chain of landing fields was established in British Columbia and other parts of the northwest, with results that are arresting. So effectively have all these bases and landing fields been linked that within twenty-four hours powerful forces could be rallied from distant points in North America and flown by

The Poet's Corner

IMMORTALITY Filled by our fellow-men, depressed outworn, We leave the brutal world to take its And, 'Patience in another life'; we say, 'The world shall be thrust down, and we up-borne.' And will not, then, the immortal armies scorn The world's poor, routed, leavings? Who (ailed under the heat of this life's day, Support the fervours of the heavenly morn? No! no! the energy of life may be Kept on after the grave, but not begun; And he who flagged not in the earthly strife, From strength to strength advancing—only he His soul will merit, and all his battles won, Mourns, and that hardly, to eternal life. —Matthew Arnold.

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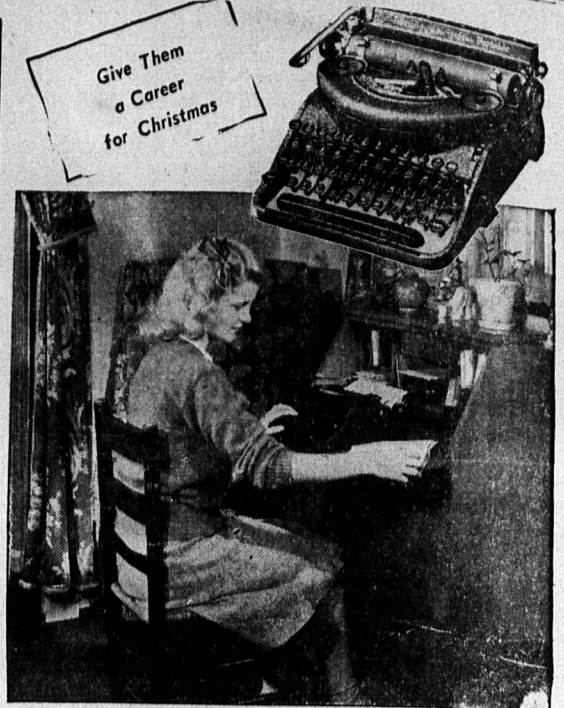
WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A Thought A Day For A People At War "What we must suffer and endure in the days to come are much more than we have suffered so far." — Lord Beaverbrook.

crack, but he did know that, given shot and powder, his men would stick to the job and do it somehow. "Sirs," three-quarters of the world now cries, "for the love of God let us have with some speed some great shot" and some of the ships and tanks and heavy bombers and pursuit and ammunition and motor transport which the task requires; there is no doubt that "his service will continue long," but given the means, it now will and can be done. The Russians have had to retake Rostov with horsed cavalry; but the fact that they did so implies the first weakening in the armored and mechanized might of Germany. With reserves of tanks and artillery in sufficient quantity in Libya at last, the British are now sweeping up the fragments of three Axis armored divisions, and what is being done in Africa can be done in France and in Germany when the tanks and bombers begin to accumulate in adequate quantity. The overwhelming importance of the battles of the last few days as not in their actual developments; it lies in the first clear evidence which they bring that when the machines are available the machine-made war can be won. And the machines are now beginning to come in quantity; only they are not coming fast enough. Let us have them "with some speed." With fewer time-wasting disputes and strikes, with more from every one great or small, sacrifice of comforts and privileges with better organization, with a more total mobilization of every individual effort—"for the love of God and our country" and for the future of the world.

Pacific Coast Secured

(Hamilton Spectator) Alaska is much more than the ghost of a spectacular gold rush. As the one area in all the Western Hemisphere that has nearest to the Old World, Alaska has high strategic value in the present crisis, and the Trail of '98 may yet become another road to freedom should we break out in the Pacific. In other words, Alaska is a doorway into Asia; likewise it is a doorway for European aggressors to enter North America. But for their benefit and for the peace of mind of North American peoples, it can now be stressed that this passage, now so hotly and so earnestly guarded, should the emergency arise, however, it can be swung open on the instant and troops conveyed over the Bering Strait, to wherever they might be needed. The Pacific coast of this continent, from the Panama Canal on the south to the northern tip of Alaska, is now protected by adequate defenses. Air lines with bases and landing fields at vital points, are the chief form of safeguard. The long gap that existed between the American border and Alaska has been completed after months of hard work on the part of Canadian engineers and men used to pioneer conditions. A chain of landing fields was established in British Columbia and other parts of the northwest, with results that are arresting. So effectively have all these bases and landing fields been linked that within twenty-four hours powerful forces could be rallied from distant points in North America and flown by



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transport planes to Alaska. This is amazing when it is recalled how long it took for troops to proceed from Ontario to Manitoba during the Rebelion. But these air routes have more than a defensive value. Should it be necessary to send troops to Asia, the distance between Chicago and Shanghai, for instance, is reduced by more than three thousand miles, as against the southern route across the Pacific Ocean. A short and more direct route is now opened to Vladivostok, which is important in view of the supplies that are constantly being shipped to Russia. The time for other possible manoeuvres can now be cut down to a few hours, where they formerly would require days.

War—25 Years Ago Today

(By The Canadian Press) DEC. 13, 1916—British resumed offensive in Mesopotamia; bombed Samarra-yat on the River Tigris. Gen Robert Nivelle succeeded Gen. Joseph Joffre in command on the Western Front. Australian government resigned. DEC. 14, 1916—Allies demanded withdrawal of entire Greek force from Thessaly. New British army council appointed by the King. The Russia, British transport, sunk without loss of life.

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