

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink.
TUESDAY, DEC. 28, 1943

The Late Senator McArthur

Senator Creelman McArthur, who passed away at his home in Summerside yesterday, was widely known both as a business man and parliamentarian. The success which he achieved in both capacities may be said to have been due largely to his own unaided efforts.

No Excuse for Concealment

The Dominion Government's plan for disposal of surplus and obsolete war materials is an arrangement for marketing billions of dollars' worth of assets. If carried out without the secrecy which has attended the accumulation and use of the supplies and equipment, says the Globe and Mail, this is likely to commend itself to the public as an orderly method of liquidation.

One point that cannot be dropped from the public mind, however, is that virtually nothing is known of how or why these vast materials were collected, and what value has been obtained from their use, except as covered by the all-embracing world war. Of the three leading war-production countries Canada stands alone with a closed book on these operations.

Why should not the people of Canada be informed specifically about the value obtained from their war contributions before the evidence is removed? There can be no excuse that it will comfort the enemy to disclose the facts when these are no longer important to the war.

One other committee is needed, or the powers of the advisory committee should be extended to report to the people on the cost and use made of the materials as they become surplus and obsolete. Still better, a judicial committee should get this information for the people.

Tribute to Infantry

"It is making no obvious comparison with any other branch of the service today that the dirtiest, hardest and most continually dangerous duty is the job of the foot soldier," observes an exchange in approval of General Eisenhower's tribute to "the gallantry and fortitude of our ground forces."

The infantryman does more than march—march—march. The exchange says: "He is the only one whose business it is to close in primeval hand-to-hand combat. He is the man who with his own body and brawn

Notes By The Way

If it is necessary to reduce the butter ration, it will be the most unpopular move that Ottawa has ever made. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Dunnville Chronicle would like to know: "Why do people spend money they have not got to buy things they don't need to impress people they don't like?" All we can suggest is the standard woman's reason—because. — Owen Sound Sun-Times.

Dr. T. H. Sanderson-Whelm, Food Education Society chairman, told in London of a perfectly balanced chemical meal, containing all the necessary vitamins, which was fed to a number of rats. They all died. — London Daily Mail.

Even the most modest forecasts of technical improvements and inventiveness in the future may be taken as any guide, the four-day week and the six-hour day is not merely a possibility but a probability. Annual holidays would help spread the necessary work more generally. — Ottawa Citizen.

and courage, takes ground and holds it. Whatever other branches may do to soften up and break down the enemy, the war will be won when the infantry, en masse, enters the enemy's last stronghold. On the way to the victorious encampment the foot soldier fights and bivouacs in fearful heat or cold, in seas of mud, hurricanes of sand or dust, enduring hunger and thirst and cruel fatigue, tormenting of insects and the threat of wounds or death."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Tay Bridge, two miles in length, crossing the River Tay at Dundee, Scotland, blown down this date 1879 with a tremendous loss of life; the passengers for the most part were holiday-makers proceeding to their homes to spend the New Year; a new bridge was built in 1887.

Perhaps General McNaughton's regrettable indisposition at this time, may lead to his acceptance later of the portfolio of Defence, permitting Mr. Ralston to succeed Sir Lyman Duff as Chief Justice of Canada. Both appointments would be well-deserved and popular.

Reference appears elsewhere in today's Guardian to the fine Christmas spirit shown by the officers, N. C. O.'s and men of the R. A. F. Station at Charlottetown. Their generous contributions to the sanatorium, hospitals, orphanage and other institutions are greatly appreciated by all our citizens.

Ottawa government officials, like Montreal city police, seek an increase of pay. A special sub-committee of the federal cabinet has completed study of civil service demands including holidays with pay. The committee is expected to announce shortly what action has been or will be taken to meet the demands.

Cardinal Hinsley, Archbishop of Westminster, has been succeeded by the 44-year-old Rev. Bernard Griffin, auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham. Bishop Griffin is the son of a popular former Birmingham alderman and he is a native of that city. He is greatly esteemed by civic authorities of Birmingham and the Midlands and made many public appearances.

The Ontario Provincial Government is considering a hospital scheme to insure every Ontario citizen over the age of 17 at a uniform monthly sum to cover reduced public ward and diagnostic costs in hospital. The plan would provide free treatment for children. Dr. R. P. Vivian, Ontario health minister favors a hospital insurance plan as a means of bringing public ward care within reach of all. Complete cost of the proposal—"which is likely to be a considerable sum in the aggregate but most reasonable for the individual pocketbook"—will be known by Feb. 1. This information will be deduced from a provincial survey now under way.

A valuation of \$66,000,000 on the estate of Edsel Ford, only son of Henry Ford, motor magnate, who died last May, is set forth in an affidavit on file in Hancock county probate court, Detroit, with a copy of his will. The affidavit listed the property valuations as: Personal estate in Maine, \$64,980,000; personal estate in Maine, \$20,000; real estate in Maine, \$150,000; real estate in Maine, \$850,000. Mr. Clifford B. Longley, Ford counsel at Detroit, said the \$64,980,000 figure was an estimate made at this time because of the Maine requirements, and that actual valuation awaits completion of inventory and appraisal, which was not expected for two or three months.

Mr. Ian Mackenzie, says the Ottawa Journal, having discovered that the wicked Progressive Conservatives are plotting with the bankers and financiers to do away with the pure and righteous Liberals, Mr. Harold Winch says that as a detective Mr. Mackenzie is a good politician, that the real plot, which he has discovered, is a \$10,000,000 "Tory financial conspiracy" to do away with the CCF. Ten million dollars! That certainly in Canada would be a political organizer's paradise; especially in these days of excess profits and income taxes. If our Canadian industrialists can muster up that much money for a political party at this time they have not only changed into politicians; they've changed into magicians. It would be a good thing if people with a stake in Canada would take enough interest in politics to put up money for policies deemed good for Canada. There would be nothing sinister about it. As it is, the party which seems to have most money to spend on electioneering at the present time is the CCF party, which has spacious headquarters now in Ottawa, and organizers and paid letter writers all over the country, and mountains of leaflets, pamphlets and other sorts of propaganda. It's the Tories and Grits who seem to be broke; sort of running things on a shoe-lace.

Are Cartels Advisable

(The Times, London)

International industrial cartels may be distinguished from cartels designed to cover primary products, e.g., wheat, sugar, rubber, tea, tin, etc., which today it is more fashionable to call Commodity Agreements. There have been, however, aluminium, dyes, alkalis, and certain products of the steel, non-ferrous metal, and electrical industries are examples of industrial materials which have become the subject of cartels.

Cartels often find their origin in competition which has driven prices below a generally profitable level. They are facilitated where there exist strong organizations of local producers, or of each local industry, by reason of its technical characteristics, is organized in large-scale units. The few or the number of authoritative personalities in the industry in each country, the more likely is agreement in a cartel. Dr. Hermann Levy claims it is "the revolutionary progress of transport which has created concentrated cartels. These cartels are not a negation of a competitive economy; they rise inevitably out of the need to abolish competition. Without this field they have many purposes. They aim at a more stable level of production, the extension of volume and therefore of the reduction of costs; they seek stability and, maybe, unification of prices; they aim at reducing the fluctuations in marketing costs and in the ratio of sales price to quality. Exhaustive statistics of marketing costs can provide a complete picture of the structure of the industry and the trend of its movement. The cartels are a means of laying causes of expansion or contraction and strengthen accuracy of forecasts. The cartels of large capital installations and the long time required to erect new plants necessitate early and accurate information if future plans are to be carried out. The cartels can reduce the allocation of markets—the equivalent of modern war-time zoning.

Past achievements in a reference year or years commonly form the basis of the cartels. The quota settlement sometimes provides the initial basis of the local producer's share. The cartels thereby achieving the same objectives as a tariff. Some central supervising body is almost essential for coordination of joint or several action. It may undertake to organize the essential statistics and to promote price uniformity, to control sales conditions, to foster the standardization of types, patterns, and sizes of products, and to iron out price fluctuations. Some cartels are of a political nature. Competition in quality and service between participants is normally not controlled. Achievements are periodically balanced against quotas and compensatory services are applied to the differences, either through payments or internal manufacturing adjustments.

Similar arrangements offer obvious advantages to producers. Full statistical and other knowledge of what is happening in the whole field is a clear gain. Producers may look with more certainty to regularity in production, and a greater likelihood of an ordered expansion or reduction of future output as the case may be. A greater stability of price is a definite advantage. A closer balance between supply and demand, or common selling, or from co-operation in research and exchange of patents and processes, is not unlikely. Publicity and transport costs may well be smaller without any loss in the quality of the product. More stable production may lead to economy of capital in stocks of raw materials and finished products. A closer balance between capacity and production can reduce the waste of capital inherent in unemployed resources, and avert the expense of plant extensions before the due economic time, which should spring from more accurate forecasts. Some part of these economies is likely to inure to labour.

Not all the advantages, however, lie with producers. Many clearly have their obverse in favour of the customer. Over a period, a more stable price level may well be lower than the mean of an unregulated curve of high and low prices. Uncertainty and hazard may be thereby dispelled by consistency. Sudden changes unbalance buyers' own sales contracts, which can absorb gradual movements without suffering losses. The quality of the product is likely to improve, not only from deeper and wider research but also because competition has been shifted to the quality and service level. The customer can reckon with certainty on obtaining his supplies, buying in small quantities and thrusting the burden of stocks upon the producer, so reducing his own capital employed.

Franco Trims His Sails

(Exchange)

If fresh evidence were needed that the star of Nazi Germany is waning, it can be found in the decision of Gen. Franco, the Spanish dictator, to decree as a Christmas gesture the conditional release of all persons now imprisoned on the ground of hostility to his regime. Simultaneously the secretary of Spain's Fascist Party, the "Falangists" has announced that it does not aspire to a dictatorship, but to a government based on the rights of man, that it is a purely native product without affiliations with nationalist movements in other countries, and that its militia, which has been the Spanish equivalent of Hitler's Blackshirts, will now be disbanded.

Nobody will be deceived by Franco's belated moves to trim his sails against winds which threaten to drive his government's ship upon the rocks. Ever since the armies of the United Nations won their decisive triumph in North Africa there have been in Spain increasing signs of discontent with Franco's policy of non-belligerent friendship toward the Axis powers. Influential leaders in the army and in the worlds of business and finance, upon whose support Franco depends, justifiably formed a conviction that the Nazis were doomed to eventual defeat, and that if Spain did not want to be involved in the consequences of that defeat, she had better dissociate herself from Germany as soon as possible. They foresaw that Russia, which had supported the Spanish Republics during the civil war, would emerge from the war as the strongest military power on the European continent, and that the Government would have to kindly feelings for the Spanish elements which compassed the downfall of the Republic. So their continued pressure upon Franco and his close associates for a drastic change of policy before it was too late, is not surprising. The moves lately made.

The peoples of the United Nations know full well that, if the fortunes of the Axis are favoring the Nazis, Franco would be continuing to aid them to the best of his ability. So he cannot expect to win by gestures of appeasement forgiveness for his deep complicity in the great conspiracy against democratic freedom. However, it is all to the good that some 34,000 Republicans who have been languishing for many weary months in Spanish concentration camps, and whose families will now regain their freedom. Their release marks another tangible success in the war of liberation.

It is true that the buyer must reckon with some disadvantages. His choice of supplier is more limited; he cannot take advantage of job lots in an uncertain market; nor can he reckon on some unexpected advantage arising from a sudden and possibly brief fall in prices, or from a prolonged price war between producers, caused by inter-competitive strife or excessive and rapid expansion of plant capacity.

Industrial cartels are not unaware of widespread prevalence of public distrust; they are, indeed, sensitive, and possibly on that account the more scrupulous to avoid any action which justifies suspicion. Exploitation of the consumer is thereby strongly checked, apart from common sense commercial avoidance of any action likely to foster new competition, whether from new entrants or from competitive substitutes. However, few cartels are complete monopolies; usually a small number of independent concerns persist, ready to seize any opportunity for expansion as the bulk of their dealings are in foreign countries they have to reckon with political feelings against the producer. Their attention can never be safely lifted from the conciliation and satisfaction of their customers. Finally, as between themselves, quality, service, or goodwill will tend gradually to modify the quota basis, so moving volume of production from the higher to the lowest cost producers, either through the compensation payments or through a fresh deal. In this manner research pays handsome dividends.

It is alleged that cartels restrict volume deliberately or set their price at such a level as to automatically restrict consumption. These complaints assume a high elasticity of demand, though that is uncommon among the products usually concerned, which rest on a derived rather than on a direct consumer demand. The interest of large-scale organizations in the full employment of their plants is overlooked, and the higher gain in reduced costs is forgotten—a gain frequently exceeding that which will arise from a higher price applied to a smaller volume of output.

LONDON (CP)—Authorities at the canteen establishments in Edmonton town hall are considering gluing saucers to tables and chaining down spoons. Out of 52 saucers and 126 spoons supplied since last January only two saucers and 37 spoons remain. The rest were lifted by customers.

BE SURE TO SEE THE FULL-COLOR PAINTING by WINSTON CHURCHILL Here's a souvenir you'll want to see and keep... a full-color reproduction of an original painting by Prime Minister Winston Churchill. See it in The Standard's rotogravure section this week... the first time it has been reproduced anywhere in full color! It's a masterpiece by Winnie himself! Other Features This Week: France's Camouflaged Army—the story of her hidden army in North Africa! Exclusive story of Wallace Reburn's visit to the Partisan Army in Yugoslavia. Latest recipes and cooking hints by KATE AITKEN. Full-length novel and all the best comics.

"From Everything which has Happened in the Past We may draw Encouragement for the Future." —Churchill

Churchill's words, seasoned with prudence, spiced with courage, apply not only to our Commonwealth's steadfast course through "this present unpleasantness" but also to our progress through the strains and stresses of the peace which is to follow it.

Already upon the horizon, now lighted by a red dawn, we see strange shapes appearing—old forces in new forms and power demanding to be adjusted to national and international life. But we in the British Commonwealth of Nations need not be dismayed. We are fortunate in that we can draw upon deep reserves of experience in adjusting the dynamics of individual initiative to furtherance of the common weal. True we face troubled seas; but we do so in a stout ship well balanced with sound common sense and manned by men of wisdom and good will.

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The Poet's Corner QUANTITY AND QUALITY The poor have childer and to spare. But with the quality they're rare. Where money's scarce the childer's many. Where money's thick you'll scarce find any. Some wanted here, too many there. It's a square. Now, if the rich and poor could share, There'd soon be childer everywhere; But God have pity on the mother That gives her child up to another. An' so you'll find a mansion o'er, A cabin rich in all that's fair— It's a square. —Winifred M. 'etta. HELD RECORD Paris was the largest city in the world for 1,000 years. ONE TASK DONE At the conclusion of the African campaign, Winston Churchill said, "One continent at least has been cleansed and purged for ever from Fascist or Nazi tyranny."

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