

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1867)
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Subscription Rates
By Mail in P. E. I. \$4.00 per year; \$1.50 for 6 months
\$1.25 for 3 months; 60c for one month
City Delivery \$2.00 per year; \$1.00 for 6 months
\$0.75 for 3 months; 40c for one month

The Charlottetown Guardian may be obtained at
Morning News Agency, Elgin Square, New York; Old
South News Agency, Corner Mills and Washington Streets;
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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 1943

Keep Parliament Going

There has been a great deal of absenteeism on the part of members of Parliament during the present session, complains the Globe and Mail. It reached a new high last Thursday night, when out of a possible 241 members there were only 17 in the House.

It was Mr. John R. MacNicol, Progressive Conservative member for Toronto-Davenport, who called the attention of the chairman of Committee of the Whole to the fact that there wasn't even a quorum present. By actual count made by the Globe and Mail correspondent, there were but two Cabinet Ministers in the House and four other supporters of Mr. King. There were seven members of the Progressive Conservative Party, two members of the C.C.F.-Socialist Party and two members of the Social Credit Party.

All those absent members of the House of Commons, recalls our Toronto contemporary, asked to be elected to office. They promised their constituents that they would serve them faithfully. They will likely ask for public support again. But when it comes to paying attention to public business they find all sorts of excuses for staying away. Has Parliament no meaning to the absent members who have no excuse for their absence? The people pay each member \$4,000 per year. In addition, he gets free transportation on both railroads. He gets an office to work in. He gets a secretary. He gets every facility possible that the public purse can provide. Could it be that the members of Parliament are without a sense of public duty?

Now, with the Canadian troops taking part in the fighting in Sicily, there is more and more reason for attention to public affairs by the members of Parliament. On the contrary, the members seem to be in the greatest hurry to get home. What should be done is to keep Parliament in session during these trying days. This crisis in our nation needs Parliament in session. It needs the members at Ottawa and in attendance at sessions, for there is more and more need of vigilance at this time. Instead of absenting themselves from sittings of the House, if they have any real appreciation of their duties they will refuse to permit Parliament to be closed up at this time.

Our War Production

Production in Canada rose to an unprecedented height during the past six months, increasing more than 15 per cent. over the corresponding period of 1942, reports the Bank of Commerce news letter. This expansion occurred under some heavy handicaps, notably ever-widening labour shortages and the most severe weather in many years, the effects of which curtailed activity from time to time in various important fields—mining, forestry and transportation, as well as laterally as in agriculture. But these restrictive influences were over-balanced by a large flow of processed agricultural products from stocks acquired in the last few years, particularly from the bumper crops of 1942, and by a vast output of war material from Canada's new armament industry, partly built since 1940 and only recently approaching full-scale operation.

While about 900,000 people have recently been employed in war production, labour shortages have prevented industry from working at full capacity. Yet the new armament industry, and its complementary units of civilian plants converted to war purposes, has a most impressive record. The total value of all material produced and delivered since the outbreak of war has been officially announced recently as over \$4,500,000,000, partly represented by the following: 475,000 motor vehicles (now estimated at over 500,000), 21,300 combat vehicles, including over 3,000 tanks; 8,000 aircraft; 500 ships launched, including 141 merchant freighters delivered; 55,500 heavy guns, barrels and mountings; 630,000 smaller weapons; 800,000 tons of chemicals and explosives.

These items, made by the largest automobile and railway engineering plants, several aircraft establishments, twelve major shipyards, eight small arms factories, fifty shell plants and over thirty chemical units, as well as thousands of auxiliary units, should not, however, be taken as the whole range of armament produced in this country. Practically all kinds of equipment required for this war is made in Canada, even that of the most scientific and intricate character. Thus, over 160 plants are engaged in anti-submarine detection devices, while some of the Allies' most effective "secret weapons" are of Canadian design, including communication appliances and a tank track which is regarded as the best available anywhere.

The Bank letter estimates that about 55 per cent. of our national production is now required for war purposes, but the proportions of domestic construction materials, industrial goods and foods show quite marked changes since the analysis made in February. Then, it was estimated that war requirements accounted for at least one-fifth of the country's food supply, three-quarters of its minerals (including gold), 80 per cent.

of its construction materials and over half of its industrial production. The Government's programme for new plant and extensions is not much more than half as large as that of last year, which means a proportionate reduction in supplies for domestic construction, although the needs of our Allies for timber products are as great as ever. Nearly 70 per cent. of industrial goods and about 25 per cent. of the foods are now for war needs.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Two-year-old Iris Madle, with a new blue ribbon in her hair, handed the Queen a bouquet of home-grown carnations when she went to see Bethnal Green's flourishing allotments. Her Majesty praised the hard work which had converted great mounds of brick and rubble into neat rows of beds filled with healthy-looking vegetables. Iris had carefully rehearsed her formal speech, but when the moment came all she could say was: "Hello, lady."

Hon. T.D. Bouchard, Quebec, Minister of Roads and mayor of St. Hyacinthe, states that the results of municipal elections in St. Hyacinthe, where four of the five candidates supporting a platform of municipal control of milk pasteurization and distribution were defeated, clearly show that "our population is far from being prepared to accept obligatory pasteurization." As a result of the elections, he said, the city would abandon temporarily its plan to have the pasteurization and distribution of the milk sold in the city placed under the control of a commission. Creation of the commission was authorized during the last session of the Legislature.

In England these days, rationing affects the most important item in a marriage ceremony, viz., the wedding cake. Sometimes for weeks before, families will pool their points ration to lay up a little stock of sweets, dried fruit, and sugar so that they can have a wedding cake. Shops still make wedding cakes but without icing. But here is a big item about the wartime wedding cake—if you stand a reasonable distance from it before it is cut you think you see the real thing because it is camouflaged. It has a covering that fits as snugly as a tea cosy built of white cardboard to look like real wedding cake icing with silver bells and orange blossom.

United States Navy physicians hold in their hands a new weapon—a weapon which they hope can combat and overthrow any future outbreaks of influenza, which killed 21,000,000 throughout the world at the close of the First Great War. The 12th Naval District Headquarters reported that animal experiments of its laboratory research on influenza "are sufficiently promising to warrant the expectation that application to human infection will be successful." The new agent is an antiserum inhaled directly into the lungs in the form of a fine mist. While it remains in the lung tissue it neutralizes any influenza virus breathed in by the patient and thus protects him against the disease, said Commander Albert Paul Kruger, director of the naval laboratory research unit which perfected the process.

The redoubtable Tommy Church, (Prog. Con. Toronto, Broadview) complained in the House of Commons that he was the victim of a "hoax" involving the mailing of 100 copies of Hansard in the French language to his constituents on Orangemen's Day, July 12. He said he had ordered copies of debates in English to be mailed to 100 of his constituents. French language copies had arrived that day. "Prominent Orange leaders, and others, including ministers of the gospel received them," he said. "The hoax was on me and I received good-natured jokes from several members this morning. I do not believe that the Minister of National Defence for Naval Services (Hon. Angus Macdonald) had anything to do with it." Mr. Church recently clashed in the House with Navy Minister Macdonald over the former's criticism of naval administration.

Robert Burns, Scottish poet, died this date 1796; the Shakespeare of Scotland, and the poet of democracy; brilliant in every respect, even in his failings:

A dear-loved lad, convenience snug,
A treacherous inclination—
But let me whisper 'i' your lug,
Ye're aibins nae temptation.

Then gently scan your brother Man,
Still gentler sister Woman;
Though they may gang akimmin wrang,
To step aside is human.

Then at the balance let's be mute,
We never can adjust it;
What's done we partly may compute,
But know not what's resisted!

Bermuda's recently-elected Assembly took precedent-breaking action at its first session by deciding to remove all restrictions against the use of motor vehicles. After contentious debate lasting two and a half hours the decision was made on a vote of 22 to 10 following the defeat—19 to 13—of a proposed amendment to prevent use of motor vehicles by private individuals. The special sitting of the Assembly was attended by Canadian and British members of the Empire Parliamentary Association. Bitter opposition to the proposal came particularly from Mr. A.C. Down, Assembly member, formerly of Winnipeg. He declared that general use of cars would injure the tourist trade and contended that this was no time to spend a large amount of money on road construction. Principal deciding argument in the debate was that United States citizens would be in the colony for the 99-year period involved in the granting of bases to that country. They would continue to use automobiles, and Bermudians might as well have some of these benefits while suffering any consequent inconveniences, proponents of the motion argued.

Notes By The Way

It is reported that Goering and Hitler are victims of nervous ailments and a bit jittery. Well, didn't they plan this as a war of nerves? The trouble in Germany is that the wrong nerves have been affected.—Toronto Globe and Mail.

A lady and her boy of 13 had just finished dinner at a local restaurant. The boy squirmed uncomfortably on his chair as his mother powdered his nose and applied cosmetic to her lips. As the mother rose to leave the table she said to her boy, "There seems to be egg on your chin!" The lad's answer was almost instantaneous. "And there seems to be tomato juice on your lips, mother!" Make your own moral.

A Gallup Poll reveals that Canadians questioned on the matter of punishment for Axis leaders, 63 per cent voted death for Hitler, 61 per cent would execute Hirohito, and 53 per cent were in favor of giving Mussolini the coup de grace. If Duce, however should not regard his smaller circle of enemies as a threat to his personal safety, his place in the standing can only be credited to his inability to be more harmful.—Windsor Star.

When Speaker Sam Rayburn introduced Prime Minister Winston Churchill to the Congress of the United States, he spoke of the distinguished visitor as "one of the outstanding figures of all the earth," but he wasted no words on biographical details, much less on suppositions and opinions and comments. In this respect it was a model that might be copied to great advantage by introducers everywhere.—Brantford Expositor.

Research men are racing against time to find a way to make large synthetic rubber truck tires that will wear as well as those made from tree-grown rubber. On test runs, heavy truck casings made of synthetic have become useless after traveling 5,000 to 12,000 miles. Natural rubber truck tires give an average of 35,000 to 40,000 miles service. Unless technicians can find a way to make synthetic rubber tires as good service as natural in truck tires, the whole rubber program will be thrown way out of balance.—Wall Street Journal.

Perhaps even more than taxes, food rationing hits every American where he is least accustomed to feel it. Despite our failure to distribute abundance properly in the past, we did have the abundance. The groaning board had become almost a national symbol. The synthetic rationingists went to work early in the days of food rationing to create the resentment they said existed. The excess of the rationingists was assured by the recent polls. According to these surveys, 63 per cent of the American people believe that it will be necessary for the government to continue food rationing after the fighting stops.—Chicago Sun.

We were out of town last Wednesday to attend a wedding which was most unusual in that it was truly such a "family" affair. The bride was a niece, her father who gave her away a brother, one of the clerics who performed the ceremony was a nephew, the organist was a sister, the matron of honor was a niece, one of the bridesmaids was a nephew, a brother-in-law drove the bride to the church and we and our invaluable partner accompanied them. And the service was conducted in a church which was attended forty-one years ago when we were setting type by hand for one of the county town's newspapers. And—of course—the groom was not the only man that kissed the pretty little bride that evening.—Trenton Courier-Advocate.

The lack of doctors may be one reason for people leaving the farms and going to the cities. It used to be that the nearest farm to a motor car, electric lights, electric refrigerators and all the other modern conveniences. Most farming folk did not have these things. Along with good roads. But the trend from farm to city is maintained. Perhaps the farmers want to get out of the country where there is need. In any case, the lack of doctors in farming communities is acute. Those now serving are overworked. Distribution of medical care in one problem to be solved when the war ends. Something must be done if manpower is to be maintained on the farms.—Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

Some interesting figures resulting from a test with school meals at the Cedar Street Elementary School, Blackburn, have been forwarded to the board of education. About 150 children, more than half the number in attendance, ate school meals at the school. Three months ago it was decided to make a test and the children were weighed. In the 10-11 year age group, 10 per cent among those who took their mid-day meal in school was 2 lbs. 8 1/2 ozs., against only 14 ozs. for those who did not eat in school. In the nine-year class the respective figures were 2 lbs. 3 ozs and 1 lb. 3 ozs. The school menu was constantly varied, but varied in the serving of meat and vegetables followed by pudding cost 4d. At present the Blackburn authorities are catering for 5,000 of the 12,000 children in their elementary schools.—Manchester Guardian.

Hotels and restaurants are already economizing on table and bed linen, says The London Evening Standard. Some establishments, including L. M. S. station restaurants, are using half-size linen. In other instances tablecloths, too, have been "permanently" table cover materials. Some smaller restaurants are substituting "bar" table fashion. But others who would like to do so have difficulty in getting the "permanent" table cover. The proprietors of a chain of London hotels told The Evening Standard: "We no longer give casual customers a serviette." Hotels with very low stocks of towels are having to withdraw the "free issues." They are now asking guests to give up coupons to buy towels. Casual visitors who arrive without a towel are asked for a deposit before being lent one. Boarding house keepers, too, are asking their lodgers to supply their own towels and contribute to the sea-cloth "pool."

DESERTING GERMANS
STOCKHOLM — (CP) — Swedish newspapers report that an impressive number of deserters from the German army have been escaping from Norway into Sweden.

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Front Line Generals

Action at last for Canada's invasion army finds seven Canadian generals in command of its two corps and five divisions. The Divisional Commanders include Maj.-Gen. F. P. WORTHINGTON.

By Douglas Amaron
Canadian Press Staff Writer

At headquarters of a Canadian army tank brigade in southern England, a mural in the officers' mess portrays in 21 square feet of beaverboard the martial march of events since 1914. A feature of the design, done in water color and pencil by a tank brigade corporal, is a pictorial record of the development of the tank. Prominently spotted above the tanks of modern warfare are the head and shoulders of Maj.-Gen. F. P. Worthington, who rightly is called the father of tank warfare in the Canadian Army. He designed Canada's "Ram" tanks.

"Fighting Frank" Worthington is commander of an armored division now and the equipment he fought for so long has been provided. It is Canada's boast that her army is the world's most mechanized and Worthington's pioneering and perseverance against all sorts of odds has been a great factor in that achievement.

Gen. Worthington was chief instructor at Canada's first tank school and when war began was appointed commander of the army's armored fighting vehicles' training centre. He went to Washington and hounded officials there until an agreement was reached whereby over-age American tanks were sent to Canada for instructional purposes.

With these he trained the first army tank brigade, a top-notch formation whose officers and men the short, grey-haired, pipe-smoking commander chose individually.

Nothing at all we shall have, beloved. Nothing and nothing at all. From the smoke of the village fallen. The crumbling wall. Nothing and nothing is left us. A table, a cup or a chair, The mirror where deep in the evening I watched the slow light of your hair.

Not even the locket I gave you, The white and lovely flower I found in a field and you folded away, in a secret hour.

Nothing at all for rebuilding. For lifting a roof-tree again! Only the ashes of happiness here. Scattered like dust on the plain. But we shall set out on the long road. When dawn lights the heavens above. Armored with beautiful hours remembered. And all the bright days of our love.

—Daniel Whitehead Hickey in the New York Times.

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These meetings are organized by the Division of Illustration Stations, Dominion Experimental Farms Service, in co-operation with other Services and the Provincial Department of Agriculture. Discussions will be led by members of the Federal and Provincial departments of agriculture. A field tour will be made on each station and a description will be given of each field treatment. You will be able to see the effects of different fertilizer treatments on roots, corn and grain. The effect of nitrogenous fertilizers on timothy meadows and the effect of chemical fertilizers on pastures are further demonstrated. Come and see the different varieties of swedes, mangels, corn and grain and talk over what you see with the speakers and with your neighbours. Bring your own problems along with you.

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