THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1945

Well Done First Prince !

The results of yesterday's by-election in First Prince indicate a victory for the Conservative candidate, Mr. Clarence F. Morrissey, of Tignish, over both his Liberal and C.C.F. opponents. This is a striking indication, both of growing Conservative strength in Prince County, and of the unpopularity of the Jones Government in a district which has been strongly Liberal for many years.

The election was called to fill the vacancy occasioned by the appointment of Mr. Bernard, the Liberal representative, to the Lieutenant Governorship. At the last general election Mr. Bernard was returned with a majority of 687 over his leading opponent—the biggest majority scored in the whole campaign. A sad falling-off indeed in Liberal prestige is indicated in yesterday's returns. Mr. Morrissey is to be warmly congratulated on his success in swinging this seat into the Conservative line.

This is the second by-election the Jones Government has lost in recent months, the previous one being in Third Kings, where the Government's attempt to gain a snap verdict on the eve of the Dominion general election was defeated by Major J.A. MacDonald, the Conservative standard bearer.

The Conservatives did not contest Fifth Prince in yesterday's election for the reason, as previously noted, that there was a pretty general desire on the part of Summerside citizens to regain their representation in the Government. The result was an easy win for their candidate, Mr. Morley Bell, who presumably, as the only Liberal lawyer in the House, will lay claim to the Attorney Generalship.

The C.C.F. candidates made a poor showing in both elections yesterday. Evidently the people of Prince Edward Island are satisfied with the two-party system, at least to the extent of being doubtful of the validity of the claims advanced by the more radical younger parties.

Grants To Pupil Nurses

The Department of Veterans Affairs announces that it is of opinion "the field of nursing is a promising one into which a substantial number of discharged members of the three women's forces could be rehabilitated successfully"; that "it has instructed its officers in the field to make this known to the women's services"; and that it will "lend full support to any efforts to facilitate the scheme."

More helpful still in meeting the serious shortage of nurses throughout Canada is the announcement that the Department will pay the full educational grant of $60 per month to discharged members of the women's forces, with no deductions when the payments and allowances made by the hospitals to the pupil nurses do not exceed $40 per month. The cash payment of $70 per month plus board and lodging to those who enter for training as nurses should be an attractive inducement.

Other young women who have the necessary scholastic qualifications should note the statement that the demand for trained nurses will continue to be great because of the increasing bed population in hospitals and because of the demand for nurses in the new public health services of the Dominion and Provincial Governments.

Yuletide Fire Menace

The temptation to brighten homes at this season of the year with flimsy, inflammable decorations has been the cause of many tragedies. Let us hope this Christmas will be an exception. The only safe practice is to use non-inflammable materials. Checking the string of lights for bare wires that could cause short circuits is advisable. Candles should be ruled out completely for decorative purposes. "Take the time," says an exchange, "to be safe. Enjoy your Christmas secure in the knowledge that your carelessness will not lead to fires which destroy property and may cost the lives of your loved ones." This warning has to be repeated annually, for some people never seem to learn.

Farm Income

According to a report of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, farm income in Canada for the first half of 1945 was $702,000,000 as compared with $764,000,000 for the first half of 1944. This shrinkage of about 9 per cent is not a trivial decrease. It is unlikely to have been made good in the second half of the year, because the yields of most of the grain crops in the Prairie Provinces are substantially lower than in 1944. The combined income of these provinces is $90,000,000 lower for the first six months of this year, Saskatchewan being the chief sufferer with a loss of $51,000,000.

The question may well be asked, says an exchange, whether the agricultural policy sponsored by the Federal Government does not bear a large responsibility for the decline? It is an open secret that Mr. Gardiner, the Minister of Agriculture, has very little enthusiasm for hog production in Western Canada, and feels that it, or any diversification, is more or less flying in the face of nature's intention to make grain growing its most profitable form of agricultural activity. In his anxiety to preserve this "tradition" he has done a tall amount of juggling with the subsidies. It would be interesting, perhaps, to chart the effects of his activities on the production levels of the various crops in those Provinces.

What happened to hog production on the prairies as a result of the coarse-grain subsidies is being demonstrated by Canada's inability to meet her commitments for bacon and pork products to Britain in 1945. An agricultural policy which records both a serious decline in farm income and a failure to meet contractual obligations of commodities in desperate demand abroad at the same time seems hard to defend.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

Parliament is now in recess until March, but that will soon be here.

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Summerside, with its usual enterprise and vision, has launched a campaign for an up-to-date hospital.

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It was bound to come. An agitation is now inaugurated to boost the indeminities of provincial legislators. The judges, Supreme Courts and County Courts, have been promised consideration of their claims.

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The stores have been doing a roaring trade in the present week, the best within the recollection of the oldest merchant. The trouble has been the scarcity of goods to satisfy the demands.

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The keen interest which daily newspapers take in municipal government keeps local politics honest, says Mayor Robert H. Saunders of Toronto. Mayor Saunders denied that newspapers try to dictate to local officials.

* * * *

"He who moulds public sentiment goes deeper than he who enacts statutes—he makes statutes possible or impossible to execute."—Abraham Lincoln. And without the education of public opinion to pressing needs by Canadian daily newspapers, it would have been impossible to enforce urgent wartime regulations.

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It is announced that a start is to be made early next year on a "super-highway" from New York City to Buffalo and thence southward to the Pennsylvania State line. It is to be a six-lane "express" highway 486 miles long, costing $200,000,000, for both commercial and passenger vehicles, and a speed up to 70 miles per hour will be permitted.

* * * *

"Unless we see to it that those who constitute the government are God-fearing, able, patriotic men of integrity and character, imbued with the idea that the state exists to protect each individual in his right to a self-respecting, self-reliant, independent freedom (said Mr. Joseph P. Kennedy, at the Annual Scout Commissioners Conference), the state will become a monster destroying every element of individuality and initiative."

* * * *

Mr. Jean-Francois Pouliot, loquacious M. P. from Temiscouata, in a questing mood (says the *Gazette*) has concerned himself with the educational antecedents of certain government officials. His query has elicited the formal information that the Department of External Affairs includes 32 Oxford graduates—including the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey—and the Finance Department one, a solicitor. The majority of those holding Oxford degrees are, presumably, Rhodes Scholars—men chosen for their superior abilities in sports and studies alike.

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Mr. H. H. Hannam, President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, in an address before the Canadian Manufacturers Association in Toronto voiced the belief that farm people feel that generally speaking the concentration of industry in large centres is not in the best interests of the people or the nation. "We believe," Mr. Hannam said, "a movement towards a decentralization of our factory system and the encouragement of town and village industries would be a desirable feature of post-war life. This would provide part-time or seasonal employment for farmers' sons and farm workers, to the benefit of both industry and agriculture. It would have a tendency to improve farm markets close at hand where the minimum of middleman services are involved and where as a result the proportion of the consumers' dollars received by the farmer would be greater."

* * * *

On December 20, 1642, some stage players in London were apprehended by troopers, their clothes taken away, and themselves carried to prison. This was in consequence of the Act of Parliament of the previous September; ordinance of the Lords and Commons concerning stage-players—"Whereas the distressed estate of Ireland steeped in her own blood, and the distracted estate of England, threatened with a cloud of blood by civil war, call for all possible means to appease and avert the wrath of God appearing in these judgments; among which the fasting and prayer, having been often tried to be very effectual, have been lately, and are still enjoined; and whereas public sports do not well agree with public calamities, nor public stage plays with the seasons of humiliation, this being an exercise of sad and pious solemnity, and the other being spectacles of pleasure too commonly expressing lascivious mirth and levity; it is therefore thought fit, and ordered by the Lords and Commons in this Parliament assembled, that while these sad causes and set times of humiliation do continue, public stage plays shall cease and be forborne. Instead of which are recommended to the people of this land the profitable and seasonable consideration of repentance, reconciliation and peace with God, which probably will produce outward peace and prosperity, and bring again times of joy and gladness to these nations." This prohibitory law was only partially obeyed, several noblemen and others carrying on bootleg theatricals in their own homes to which select audiences were invited. As soon as Cromwell was dead, and Charles II securely enthroned, the Prohibition Law was repealed, only to be restored in 1665-6 during the Great Plague.

Notes By The Way

An Old Timer's main claim to fame these days is that he remembers the first arguments about a distinctive Canadian flag. —Hamilton Spectator.

The grimly facetious query of the Philadelphia Record, "The atomic bomb is here to stay, but are we? merely echoes a solemn thought that has been running through the minds of several leading philosophers and scientists to say nothing of that of H. G. Wells. —Brantford Expositor.

The number of French works of art removed by the Germans is estimated at 50,000, without counting valuable books. Our artistic heritage is being recuperated, with the aid of the Allied authorities. A symbolic restitution of 71 paintings, notably Rubens, Reynolds, Chardin and Watteau, which were found in Bavaria, took place at the Jeu de Paume Museum in Paris. —(France-Canada.)

Surplus ammunition is being dumped in deep waters in various parts of the Great Lakes, If the authorities could only round up all the "surplus" guns and revolvers and dump them in the same place, Canada would be a much safer country in which to live. —Kingston Whig-Standard.

A doctor friend said to me the other day: "I've had to stop putting American magazines in my waiting-room. Their technicolor food advertisements upset my patients, whose food is so monochromatic." And that is as profound an observation as any in the current newspaper debate between doctors as to whether we, as a nation, are undernourished, says a writer in The London New Statesman. What the eye sees, the stomach grieves about. The gray monotony of sausage-meat in all its unconvincing disguises is a considerable factor in making us feel that our diet is inadequate.

Coal is front-page news today. It is difficult to realize that there was a time when coal was highly unpopular, Legislation was introduced to prevent its use, says Toronto Saturday Night. In the reign of King Edward I coal was regarded with the deepest suspicion and disfavor. Its use was forbidden in London. The penalty against infringement of this law was most severe—a large fine or even the suspension of a business. One Londoner was convicted and sentenced to death for breaking it.

What, then, is the conclusion of the whole matter? That we know all the native elements which may provoke another conflagration, and practically none of those that may prevent it. We must thus rely upon ourselves. To that simple conclusion we were bound to be driven. We must therefore keep prolonged control of Germany. We must "stay the course," and pay all the insurance premiums that safety demands. They will always be well within our means. If we stay on the job this time—and we cannot without decentralizing Germany—she will not "try again," for though the spirit may be strong, the flesh will be weak until it is atrophied by disuse If we fail to do so, if we listen again to those who would throw in their hands and trust to luck and "good Germans," we may again be sure of the consequences. The wherewithal abounds, and destructive science is more than kept pace with it. Let that, above all, be remembered.—Lord Vansittart in Atlantic.

"Something", says The Ottawa Journal wearily, "should be done about the people who are always describing something as "the greatest event in history.'" Most of these exaggerations, The Journal continues, come from "young rhetoricians who forever are dealing with 'fate' and 'destiny', and who are never satisfied unless they have us standing at the 'crossroads.'" Most, perhaps, but not all. In any case, the imaginative lads who write some of the talkie ads come a close second. They not infrequently adjudge and proclaim "the greatest spectacle of all time" at some local playhouse. Or, if it isn't that it's "the most stirring drama of the century." It never seems to occur to these ebullient souls, in their enthusiasm, that such terms take in a considerable amount of territory. Dropping a bit lower in the scale, preserve the reader, from the writer (including, now and then, even the ordinarily well-disciplined newspaper writer!) who uses such adjectives as "splendid," "magnificent," "marvellous," etc., when what he really means is "fairly good", "good", and "excellent".—Brantford Expositor.

With Christmas close at hand, the young man is likely to solve the "gift problem" in an orthodox way by visiting the florist or candy shop. Exhibits in the Royal Ontario Museum, however, show that in the 18th century his lady love likely would have received a far more varied selection of presents, says The Niagara Falls Review. For instance, she might have given a stay busk, which was a long flat piece of wood that women wore at that time tucked down inside the front of their bodices to add to the rigidity of the prison-like corsets. There is a stay busk in the costume gallery of the Museum that is carved with two sets of initials and the date 1793. An even more significant gift was a wooden spoon. There are some of these love spoons in the Museum that are beautifully carved and seem to suggest that in days gone by you had to be quite handy with a pocket knife before you could be a successful lover. The expression "spooning' comes from the way spoons fit closely together and this curious custom of giving a spoon grew out of that use of the word.

An American magazine reports that an airline passenger in Rio de Janeiro had to pay excess baggage charges because he carried his artificial leg instead of wearing it. This is the sort of news item which is apt to be labeled "unique," but that is always a dangerous label. The Manchester Guardian comments. A few days ago, before this Brazilian bombshell burst, there was a letter in a Dublin newspaper from a wounded officer of the British army, who was on his way home to Enniscorthy, was stopped by the ticket collector at the station barrier because . . . guess what! He was carrying an artificial leg instead of wearing it, and the ticket collector said he could not pass without paying excess baggage charge on the leg. On this strange identity of the Latin and Celtic official mind the public relations department of the railway had no comment to make. Possibly they thought that the ticket collector had a leg to stand on, even if the officer hadn't.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

CIVIC RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Sir,—In a recent anonymous letter claiming failure of the Civic authorities to apply for participation in the National Housing scheme, it was stated that "a representative of the Provincial Government interviewed the Council and explained the full details of the Ottawa housing plan and recommended that action should be taken, but our Councillors turned a deaf ear," etc. I must take exception to this statement.

Mr. Galbraith, an official of the Federal Housing Plan, addressed the City Council, explaining and instructing the Councillors as to the proper procedure in preparing a post-war program of reconstruction. Mr. Galbraith stated, after the program was prepared, to advise him and he would again meet the Council and would check the different projects, and if the set-up was not in line with the Housing Plan he would make requisite corrections.

Mr H A. Messervy, city engineer, set up post-war plans for reconstruction consisting of detailed costs and blue-prints; in all eleven projects. No. 1 project being for the pulling down and replacing of 126 houses costing $350,500.

Shortly after the engineer reported to the Council, instructions were received to deliver the plan, blue-prints and detailed cost sheets to the Provincial Government.

About mid-summer (1945), a meeting was called by the Provincial Government, the Premier and cabinet, and all committees interested in post-war work, were present. The various plans and briefs were read. Mr. Messervy read the City's plan and handed it to the Government official.

Later, at an interview seeking reasons for the delay in receiving any further information from headquarters, a City official mentioned to the Government official the instructions given by Mr. Galbraith, to advise him (Galbraith) by wire, letter or phone whenever the City's post-war plans were completed. The reply the City official received was: "No need for Galbraith to come here."

When Mayor Blanchard and the City Clerk were in Ottawa recently, this reconstruction project was taken up with Minister Howe, who stated he would pass it on to the minister in charge of that department. Evidently Minister Howe passed the program on, for a few days later the minister in charge of housing stated that every province in the Dominion except Prince Edward Island had sent in their post-war program.

It is therefore untrue that the City Council turned a deaf ear, and would not take any action. The Council could not act otherwise than they did, when apparently the project — totalling $1,129,250 — was held up somewhere along the line.

I am, Sir, etc.,
CITY COUNCILLOR

CIVIL SERVICE APPOINTMENTS

Sir,—I note from a recent press despatch that the Civil Service Commission and the Canadian Legion in briefs submitted to a cabinet committee studying the question, have rejected as "unwise" the proposal to allocate any preference in Civil Service appointments to ex-servicemen who through no fault of their own have not served overseas during the recent war. In the briefs submitted by the Legion and the Civil Service Commission they not only rejected proposals to place veterans with Canadian service only on an even basis with overseas veterans but declined also to consider any preference for Canadian veterans over civilians, thereby placing them on an even footing with civilians and/or zombies in the job-getting field.

The writer happens to be one of the very large number of ex-servicemen who through no fault of our own, in fact in spite of repeated requests for overseas service, failed to get outside of Canada.

I wish to make it clear at this point that the writer in no way begrudges the first preference in all matters to combat veterans. On the contrary, it is to be profoundly regretted that much more cannot be done for such veterans and the shabby treatment accorded them in many cases is a national disgrace.

At the time most of us in the relative security of Canadian training centres were being turned down for overseas service the excuse was usually that the staff of training establishments here in Canada had to be kept up to strength if we were to augment and reinforce our units overseas, —that our service here in Canada was just as important as on a battlefront, and so on, ad infinitum, until the applicant for overseas posting usually gave up out of sheer exhaustion. But it now becomes clear that such assurances were mere empty phrases with no other purpose except to lull the applicant into a false belief in his importance as a cog in the great war machine and appreciation by a grateful public.

Now there are many hundreds of Canadian veterans discharged with 4, 5 and 6 years of service whose private lives have been as much disrupted by service in Canada as if they had served anywhere else in the world. Large numbers of these veterans are daily returning to their homes to find themselves faced with the prospect of starting from scratch to eke out a livelihood for themselves and in many cases families acquired during the war years add to the burden. Just how such veterans are expected to satisfactorily re-establish themselves with the meagre pittance of discharge pay and gratuities totalling 50% of overseas veterans, is a mystery that might well baffle the combined talents of Philo Vance and Sherlock Holmes.

The writer has nothing at stake in this controversy but knowing the circumstances and feelings of many, many hundreds of ex-servicemen with similar service, I cannot but reflect that it must be a bitter affront to many men of all services that their services, offered to and accepted by their country, have not been considered sufficiently valuable to entitle them to even a secondary preference in getting re-established, but must consider themselves no more deserving of consideration than the civilian who worked during the war years for the highest wages in the country's history and under the best conditions that industry has ever provided, and who now strikes for higher wages and shorter hours while the ex-serviceman struggles to re-establish himself in a strangely new and difficult world. Thus insult has been added to injury and the veteran of Canadian service often wonders if voluntary service was really worth it after all.

I am, Sir, etc.,
EX-FLIGHT SERGEANT, R.C.A.F.
Bloomfield, P. E. I.

The Poet's Corner

FROM "A CAROL FOR CHILDREN"

Two ultimate laws alone we know,
The ledger and the sword—
So far away, so long ago,
We lost the infant Lord.

Only the children clasp His hand;
His voice speaks low to them,
And still for them the shining band
Wings over Bethlehem.

God rest you, merry Innocents,
While innocence endures,
A sweeter Christmas than we to ours
May you bequeath to yours.

—Ogden Nash.

The Tax On Furs

(Ottawa Journal)

Mr. Ilsley, explaining and defending the small drop made by the current budget in the tax on fur coats, said he hoped the reduction "would benefit the primary producer rather than the consumer." It seems to us it would be a good thing if the "consumer", which is to say the purchaser and wearer, got some advantage too.

The assumption that fur coats are a luxury, something that can be done without, like jewelry, is hard to justify in our Canadian climate, east of the Rockies. Those are costly garments which fall in the luxury class, of course, and presumably those who buy them can afford the tax, but it is questionable whether the Government should take so deep a cut, or any cut, on the cheaper furs which without the tax might be within the reach of those who need them and now cannot afford them.

The fur tax might well be one of the first luxury taxes to be substantially modified.

LONDON—(CP)— Meteorologists supplied the cure for vapor trails, telltale tracks left in the sky by fighter pilots when vapor from the exhausts of their aircraft condensed. The solution was for the plane to climb into the stratosphere, where the air presumably was so dry the trial evaporated as fast as it was formed.

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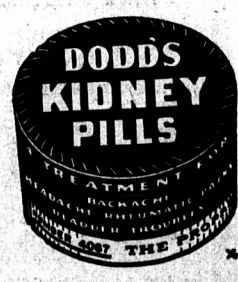

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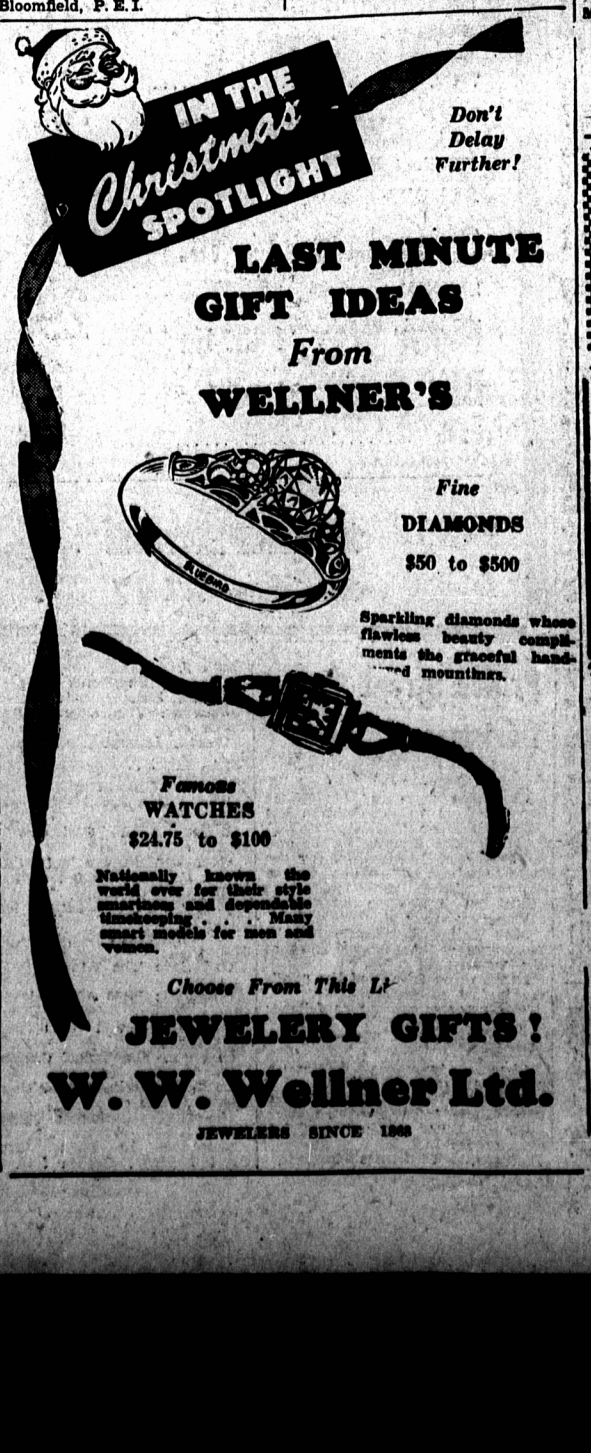

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