

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 1942.

Encouraging Wool Production

Speaking in the Legislature a few days ago, Hon. Mr. Dennis, Minister of Agriculture, emphasized the importance of the sheep industry and the need of encouraging wool production at this time.

This Province, as Mr. Dennis noted in the Legislature, had formerly a much larger sheep population than it has today. The loss of sheep through dogs has been a deterrent factor in developing this industry.

The Plebiscite Issue

Even cabinet ministers seem to be confused about the issue in the forthcoming manpower plebiscite. There should not be any confusion. The one person whose definition of the issue must be accepted is Prime Minister Mackenzie King.

"The question of conscription, properly viewed, is a Military question. The place to discuss it is in parliament. What the government now seeks for itself and for parliament is freedom to consider and debate and decide this question, like all other questions connected with the war, unrestricted by any pledge and in the light only of the needs of national security."

And here, according to Premier King, is the reason why the Government must have unquestioned authority over manpower. "We are no longer in a world where even the most powerful nation is able, by itself, to save itself from the ambition and greed of the aggressor nations."

immense territory, great resources and small population, no country may come to need the help of the other countries more than our own. Unless we continue to do all we can to help others, we shall have no right to expect them to do all they can to help us.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Let us all be patriotic and vote "yes" in the Plebiscite.

"Safety first" demands an affirmative vote on the 27th.

"Summer Time" begins this date in Great Britain, which puts the clock two hours ahead of Greenwich standard time.

There is to be no election in Ontario this year, Premier Hepburn announcing that in agreement with the Opposition it will be postponed for a year. On the other hand, the Dominion of New Zealand, where the Labour party has been in power since 1935, has decided to prepare for an election before the end of 1942.

Two enthusiasts, Capt. Elmore Philpott, Victoria, B. C. wounded in last war, and Mr. Hertel LaRoque, Montreal, direct descendant of De Salaberry of Chateaugay fame, have started a campaign for "General McNaughton as Prime Minister."

Charlottetown and Pictou have the finest natural harbours anywhere, but whereas the latter has been consistently and regularly looked after and developed, ours has been largely neglected. We welcome the assurance, therefore, given by Mr. S. A. MacLeod at the Board of Trade that this is to be remedied, at least so far as wharfing accommodation is concerned.

Quebec Legislature turned down a vote "No" resolution introduced by Mr. Rene Chalouit, in favour of an amendment by Mr. Alexis Charon declaring the plebiscite a Federal matter, and leaving "all liberty" to the voters to express their own opinion on April 27.

The Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities will hold its annual conference this year on May 26-28 in Ottawa. The tentative agenda, released in conjunction with the announcement, covers consideration of the following general topics: Civilian defence and morale, the role of municipalities in the general war effort, war and post-war housing, urban postwar reconstruction and federal-municipal relations.

There are to be no free speakers on the negative side of the plebiscite on the radio. "Free time on the CBC is allotted only to the leaders of recognized political parties in the House," a spokesman said. "Recognized parties are the Liberal Party, the Conservative Party, the C. C. F. group and the New Democracy."

"There are many features of life in the country to the south of us which are worthwhile imitating, but trying to intimidate people to belong to organizations is one which will not be tolerated in Canada," Judge F. T. Enright said in Montreal Court of Sessions when he found Richard Gauthier and Leopold Demers guilty on charges of false pretences and sentenced them to two and one years imprisonment respectively.

This is what a "notably Successful Prince Edward Island Farmer," told "The Sackville Tribune" are some of the reasons why farming here does not pay as well as it should: "Too often the farmer does not produce quality stuff. His beef, his potatoes, his carrots, are poor. I can't tell you why this is so, for there are likely to be many reasons. A farmer may be fundamentally lazy and careless. He lets everything go and then wonders what's the matter. Faulty cultivation, insufficient fertilizer, poor seed—these things may account for his inferior potatoes, while mediocre cattle and unbalanced feeding tell the sad tale of unprofitable stock-raising."

Here is an example where "religion" and "business" go hand-in-hand. Members of Father Divine's cult who recently bought the skyscraper Brigantine Hotel in New Jersey for \$70,000, have offered to sell it to local residents for \$500,000. The City Commissioner Mr. John Lloyd announced he received the offer by letter in response to urgent pleas by a group of local taxpayers that they be given opportunity to buy the property. "This \$500,000 offer didn't even include the hotel's furnishings," said Mr. Lloyd. "The offer is out of the question, and an insult to our intelligence."

NOTES BY THE WAY

Talking about the tourist trade in connection with the Alaska Highway is beside the point now. No diversion of men or material is justified while we still need men and material for this war.

In England the order has gone out to the drill sergeants to pay less attention to teaching the boys how to slope arms and a lot more instruction in how to use them. We make progress. — Brantford Exp. Post.

In helping Britain we are only limiting the deed of the Good Samaritan. In this way we are doing our part to carry out the duty that to man in the greatest story ever told and we are privileged to do this under the protection of the greatest flag that has ever flown. God bless the Union Jack, the emblem of salvation and liberty for all. — S. J. A. McDonald, Shediac, in Hansard

A Spectator subscriber reports that he was called up by long distance phone from Peoria, Illinois, recently by a resident of that city seeking confirmation of reports that it was possible to get tires here, as he was quite unable to buy them in Peoria. It was not without surprise that he learned that there was no basis whatever for the suggestion. It is obviously to the interest of our enemies to instill the feeling of jealousy, and a suspicion that the burdens of the war are not fairly distributed throughout this continent. — Hamilton Spectator.

In all the years of peace the Civil Service, the body of functionaries who administer the government of our lives, works quite admirably. It is a service with the highest traditions, it is unobtrusively honest, scrupulous, hard-working, and efficient. The men who feed this machine are often idealists. They work for the service with high aspirations allied to great abilities. Very few escape for many years the deadening spirit of the machine. "Safety First" becomes their motto. "Pass to you" their first thought. Last year, however, progress and a pension at the end of the year were not to be impeded by making a mistake. But men who are afraid of making mistakes make nothing. Thus the pernicious evasive machine regulates the national life honestly, efficiently, but tortuously. In peace the system works. Dreadful delays in reply to a letter and weeks, months wasted in reaching a decision are major irritations. The system works. But in war, with its swollen staffs and its increased authority, the system kills. It causes devastating incursions on manpower. It strains industry with red tape. It impedes, impedes and delay. — Daily Mail (Lon-on).

The fact that the Viceroy has seen a display by India's parachute troops suggests that the organization has developed beyond its infancy, and the official announcements about it are welcome signs that India's army is steadily being brought up to the highest level of modernity. Judged by the prowess in the field, India's fighting men should provide excellent recruits for the national police force. In peace the system works. Dreadful delays in reply to a letter and weeks, months wasted in reaching a decision are major irritations. The system works. But in war, with its swollen staffs and its increased authority, the system kills. It causes devastating incursions on manpower. It strains industry with red tape. It impedes, impedes and delay. — Daily Mail (Lon-on).

The food situation in Trinidad is one which should command immediate official attention. At the onset of the war the need to increase local production was so urgent that it was not so urgent as now, and a grow-or-buy campaign was instituted, which has finally been killed by the war's shortage. The import figures indicate that the colony was more dependent on food imports last year than in 1940, and no one can doubt that the situation is still more acute today. At the same time the extension of the Axis submarine campaign to Caribbean waters and the Western Atlantic coast has jeopardized our imported supplies, so that more local production is urgently needed at a time when it is hardest to get. It is seriously claimed in trade union circles that the conscription of wealth must be hand in hand with labour conscription. We need only point to the insupportable controls which have been placed on finance, trade, and industry since the war, and the sharp increase in income and excess profits taxation, to show that there has already been a very necessary regimentation of the class which the trade unionists say has escaped conscription, while in fact labour has not been fully apprised of its responsibilities or made to fulfil them. No one should escape the obligation to do his share in the war effort, whether he be employer or labourer, and we shall continue to urge that absentee workers be made to pull their weight by emergency Government order. — Trinidad Guardian (Port-of-Spain).

It may be "human nature" to attempt a bit of bragging, but it is not common sense, and individual citizens—housewives especially—had better "check up on themselves" in this regard. Hoarding is being committed to perhaps in a minor way in most cases, but the number of cases nevertheless adds up to a surprising total. In January of this year, for instance, department stores alone were twenty-five per cent higher than a year ago. In many lines of business there have been minor "runs" on various commodities. Not all of these have householders have been attempting to "stock up" Canadian Business, published by The Canadian Chamber of Commerce, reports that during the last quarter of 1941 and continuing into the present year there was a surprising increase in the sale of so-called necessities. — Brantford Exp. Post.

It seems wisest to confine our grounds for rational optimism to what we know of the Russian counter-offensive. We know this has inflicted heavy losses on the Germans, disoriented them and in some places forced them to yield strategic positions. But as yet the extent of the actual upset of German campaign plans for 1942, we can only await events. A

WORDS OF CHALLENGE

"The hardest battle we have to fight is right now, not next month or next year. — Major-General F. F. Worthington.

It's Libya's Turn Again

Rommel's forces are on the move in Libya, the Germans have launched especially powerful air attacks on Malta and Alexandria, and Spring has come to the Middle East with the roar of bombers and the rumble of tanks. So far, in Libya, the balance has been with the Allied forces, which are mainly British. The first campaign, against a greatly superior Italian army, resulted in its destruction. Then the Germans came to the help of their dismasted brothers-in-arms, and since that development the course of battle has varied. We have had spectacular successes, and heart-breaking setbacks — but today the line of battle is drawn beyond Tobruk, instead of on the Egyptian border where once General Wavell confronted the hosts of Mussolini. For weeks the desert has been comparatively quiet, while both sides have built up reserves of men and equipment — the British mainly by the long route around the vast bulk of Africa, the enemy by the short but perilous Mediterranean crossing in which our aircraft and naval vessels have taken a heavy toll of their convoys. And now we have come to the testing of strength. The fate of Egypt is at stake the rate of the Suez Canal, the great naval base at Alexandria. If the Germans could conquer Egypt, the way would be open to the oil fields of Iraq and Iran, and the enemy would be at the western gate of India, at the other side of which the Japanese are hammering. Loss of the Suez and Alexandria would make a great part of the Mediterranean unworkable for Allied sea power. Thus the tremendous significance of these new operations, a vital element in the German scheme of world conquest. Rommel is one of the best commanders, and he had the praise even of Mr. Churchill for his earlier campaign in Libya. He has powerful forces of tanks and airplanes and hard-hitting, well-trained troops. Against him are formidable British and Allied forces, and a great accumulation of re-organized equipment from the factories of Britain, Canada and the United States. A crushing defeat of Rommel in this sphere could clear out of Africa the last of the enemy, ease the problems of Mediterranean control, perhaps pave the way for an invasion of Italy.

Tourists Provided For

Special provision for American tourists visiting Canada has been made by the Federal Government, which should overcome any threatened hardship for those with summer homes in this country, and also for motorists from the United States to enjoy week-end trips in the Dominion or keep their business appointments. While it is a foregone conclusion that Canada's tourist traffic will decline this year, and perhaps continue to do so for the duration of the war, the Government has decided to provide for the needs of the number of visitors by no means expected to dwindle almost to the vanishing point. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Munitions and Supply, announces that American motorists coming to Canada for a period of forty-eight hours or less will be allowed twenty gallons of gasoline under the terms of the rationing system. When a tourist enters this country and asks for a temporary Customs card which limits his stay to two full days, he will also be given a ration book entitling him to the foregoing amount of fuel. It is estimated that 95 per cent of the American visitors will come within this category. Those tourists wishing to remain in Canada for a period up to six months will be allowed 100 gallons of gasoline which must do them for the first ninety days of their visit. After that, they may, if they choose, apply for a ration book which gives them the same rationing status as a Canadian who holds a non-essential rationing card. The fuel ration for this class of driver is limited to six to seven-and-a-half units of five gallons each per year, according to the size and horsepower of a car. These regulations affecting tourist motorists at least will await the outcome of the current Russian drive in the south. This has still to oust the Germans from the Crimea and thus ease the threat of a summer offensive for control of the Black Sea and possession of the Caucasus. — Detroit News.

prudent optimism at least will await the outcome of the current Russian drive in the south. This has still to oust the Germans from the Crimea and thus ease the threat of a summer offensive for control of the Black Sea and possession of the Caucasus. — Detroit News.

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To Save is Practical Patriotism THE CHARTERED BANKS OF CANADA

are not inflexible and may be revised from time to time if the situation changes. They will be welcomed, nevertheless, by every one concerned—the many Americans who have cottages in the mountains who like to spend their holidays there; the Canadians of the summer-resort areas who depend largely upon the vacationists for their livelihood, and by Canadian merchants and business men. The Canadian people as a whole are also glad to have their friendly neighbors here as guests. There may not be as many American cars as usual on Canadian

highways this summer, but their numbers should still be considerable in the crushing ice flies. ST. JOHN'S Nfld., April 12—(C P Cable)—The old sealing ship Ranger, jammed in the ice about 4 1-2 miles off the northeastern Newfoundland coast, was abandoned Saturday. The crew of 74, commanded by Capt. L. L. Kean, were taken off safely. The 70-year-old sealer had 500 Keep Minard's in the home.

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