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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1943

"Too Costly For Maritimes"

Under the above heading the Moncton Transcript (Liberal) says:

"There may be farmers in other parts of the Dominion who can afford to employ soldier helpers under the arrangements made by Ottawa but there are few in the Maritime Provinces.

"J. Walter Jones, Premier of Prince Edward Island, who had been a strong advocate of the plan, promptly rejected it when he learned that the plan called for wages of $3 a day. Since then it has been reported from Ottawa that the rates to be charged for soldier labor run from $3 to $4 a day, with board and lodging, and presumably transportation.

"There is no desire on the part of the farmers to take advantage of the soldiers or to obtain help at less than market rates, but there seems to be no good reason why the government should fix rates which are higher than those now prevalent for this class of work. The men in uniform cannot be blamed. Many of them now serving the government for $1.30 a day, would be glad of an opportunity to get back on the land for a few months at the same rate. The government well could afford to continue the family allowances of men serving their country in the vital task of food production.

"Some farmers have alleged that the rates have set at this high level for the purpose of reducing the demand for men because military authorities do not want their routine interrupted. We refuse to believe that the government would be affected by ideas of that sort. It is apparent, however, that something is wrong with a plan designed to aid the farmers which makes the help offered so expensive that the producers cannot take advantage of it."

The Real Story of Tunis

There was disappointment last winter when the British 1st Army, after advancing to within 15 miles of the City of Tunis, was forced to withdraw and form a defensive line. But the stoppage of its victorious advance is intelligible, says an exchange, now that it is no longer necessary to conceal the fact about its numerical weakness. Most people naturally thought the 1st Army was a complete army, but it was not even an army corps. Indeed, it was little more than a division.

The composition of the British forces which originally invaded Tunisia was two infantry brigades of the 78th Division, two battalions of parachute troops, two Commandos, and a composite force known as the Blade force, composed of a regiment of British tanks, a battalion of American tanks, a motorized company of the Rifle Brigade, a battalion of parachute troops, a battery of horse artillery and some armored cars of the Derbyshire Yeomanry, the divisional artillery and ancillary services. It was landed with transport on an assault scale only, as it was not expected to advance so far and so soon as it did.

This force, never numbering more than 20,000 men, put up a magnificent fight against heavy odds, and stories about its valor and endurance are now being released. At Jebel Abiod a battalion of the West Kents and some gunners fought for 20 days without taking off their boots. As most of their kit had been lost, they had to wrap themselves in their groundsheets at night. At the end of November a battalion of the Hampshire Regiment held Tebourba for four days against terrific assaults, accompanied by continuous strafing from the air, and thereby enabled the rest of the army to organize a new line of defense, which held. When the offensive was resumed on March 28, the 78th Division fought incessantly for 20 days until they become exhausted, and could not take part in the final assault upon Tunis. But they were selected for the honor of following the armored units into it, and being the recipients of the local population's vociferous gratitude. Canadian soldiers today fight in Sicily alongside the men of the British 8th Army, whose record in Tunisia was no less magnificent than that of the 1st.

Churchill's Career

Watching Prime Minister Churchill's dazzling career today, says the Ottawa Journal, it is hard to realize that little more than a decade ago his political fortunes were at low ebb. He had been defeated in Dundee by an obscure prohibitionist; he was distrusted by many in all parties; was still under the cloud (and misunderstanding) of Gallipoli and Antwerp; and was not in confidence of Baldwin and Chamberlain. Periodically he would lay down his pen to appear in the House with warnings of coming wrath, but it was the day of the League and of the "peace ballots", and his voice went largely unheeded.

The rest is contemporary history; the things which have made Churchill the greatest figure in British politics since Pitt. Still he remains a party leader, the greatest Conservative since Disraeli, but in a sense he belongs to all parties; and the venerable National Liberal Club, the holy city of fighting Liberalism in the days of Gladstone, is proud to rescue his portrait from its cellar and unveil it honorably on its walls. It is a great tribute to Churchill, but a tribute as well to the sportsmanship and patriotism of British political parties.

—EDITORIAL NOTES—

War declared this date, 1914.

* * * *

Her Majesty the Queen born this date 1900; formerly Lady Elizabeth Angela Marguerite, daughter of the 14th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne; succeeded to the throne December 11, 1936, crowned at Westminster, May 2, 1937; has two daughters, H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth, heiress presumptive to the throne, aged sixteen, and H.R.H. Princess Margaret Rose, aged thirteen.

* * * *

Coffee rationing has been abandoned in the United States and a loosening-up for sugar is in the offing as the U-boat has almost disappeared from South American waters and new ships are constantly coming off the ways. The day may be approaching when the flow of foods and other goods will reach its pre-war volume even here.

* * * *

The C.C.F. Socialist program for Canada means a system of regimentation against which our present war controls would drop into insignificance. It would mean a peacetime bureaucracy far more comprehensive in scope than the wartime bureaucracy which the country has been willing to accept only as a temporary war necessity. The freedom for which we are fighting on distant battlefronts would be forfeited at home. Ontario is being asked by the C.C.F. to take the first step in that deadly direction.

* * * *

The first dive bomber constructed in Canada for delivery to the U. S. Navy from Fort William plant of the Canadian Car and Foundry Co. Ltd. was successfully test-flown last week. The entire plane and landing gear has been constructed by the Canadian Car and Foundry Company in Canada, with the exception of the centre section which has been supplied from a United States source. The Fort William plant will be in production of centre sections next month, and will be in a position to produce an all-Canada built plane. Cooperating with the Fort William plant are other aircraft divisions of the company at Turcot, Point St. Charles, and Cartierville in Montreal. The company's main machine shop at Point St. Charles produces the majority of the 4,000 machined parts as well as the retractible landing gear.

* * * *

Despite difficulty being experienced by glass manufacturers in meeting the pressure of intensive demand for wide-mouth glass containers for foodstuffs, paints and other products, renewed rationing of glass production has thus far been withheld and no recurrence is foreseen of the acute shortage of glass products which prevailed early in 1942. Easing of the situation is attributed partly to curtailed orders for shipment of Canadian beer to the Middle East, partly to restricted sales of beer, wine and liquor, and to a large extent to control and conservation measures instigated by the glass administration of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. These measures are to be continued indefinitely, according to Prices Board officials.

* * * *

An Islander overseas writes: "Well, the Canadians are once again in action, at least, a part of the Canadian Army. We have been expecting this for sometime now. Our turn is not as yet at hand, but I imagine it will come sooner or later and the sooner the better. By the time this letter reaches you, you will have a better knowledge of how affairs are going on at the moment, and, as you understand, for reasons of security, it is not possible for us to discuss operations. However, it is well to bear in mind that the Canadian Army as a whole, is at present a formidable force and a small part of this force is capable of a considerable part in an operation. This main force of the Canadian Army, will no doubt, as stated years ago by General McNaughton constitute the spear-head and bridgehead of another front — 'a dagger point at Berlin'."

* * * *

On account of alleged incompetency in the Labour Department an agitation is on foot by organized labour to have Hon. Mr. Mitchell removed from office. An open letter to Prime Minister King on the subject concludes thusly:

"This is a time for statesmanship, Mr. King. The forces that toil for victory on the production front at home need confidence in their leaders, just as do the forces overseas, at grips with the enemy.

Labour demands that the incompetents and the partizans at the head of our Labour Department be dismissed. Labour demands a new deal and a square deal from your Government.

Paul Fournier, President, Montreal Trades and Labour Council.

Victor Francoeur, General Representative for Quebec, American Federation of Labour.

Edouard Larose, Organizer, International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners.

Robert Haddow, General Secretary-Treasurer, Metal Trades Council of Montreal and Vicinity.

Walter Coyle, International Vice-President, International Association of Boilermakers and Iron Shipbuilders of America.

Jack Wright, Organizer, International Association of Boilermakers and Iron Shipbuilders of America.

Alex Gauld, Business Agent, Local 144 United Association of Plumbers and Steamfitters.

M. P. Swerdlow, General Organizer, Trades and Labour Congress of Canada.

Louis Richard, President, Metal Trades Council of Montreal and Vicinity.

Oscar Boyer, Business Agent, Local 568, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

O. Renaud, Business Agent, Local 116, International Brotherhood of Sheet Metal Workers

J. E. Gariepy, Secretary-Treasurer, Montreal Trades and Labour Council."

Notes By The Way

Many who used to object strenuously to raising cannon fodder are now going all out to raise canning fodder. —Christian Science Monitor.

At the outbreak of war, Britain had 25,000 tractors for agricultural work; today there are 125,000 in use. In many instances they are operated by volunteer workers, including schoolboys and women. —St. Thomas Times-Journal.

One hates to kick a man when he is down. But we would do violence to truth if we said any good thing of Benito Mussolini. Always a cad and a liar and a racketeer, he has proved himself a coward to the last. —Buffalo Courier-Express.

The first verse of the twenty-eighth chapter of the Proverbs commences with the words, "The wicked flee . . . "but one congregation in Stockton, Missouri, probably regards this as a case of misspelling. It has been forced to suspend its services because fleas have infested the church.— Brantford Expositor.

It was 25 years ago this month that the Japanese declared a protectorate over Manchuria. Pretty soon they may find it necessary really to protect it if they wish to keep it. —Buffalo Courier-Express.

If Canada is prevented by lack of population from taking rank with the great powers, she has, in the last three years, made a place for herself in a category all her own. Relative to her resources, her record is second to none. —London Economist.

Rev. Thomas Osborne, minister who preferred the town clerkship to a pastorate, has been refused permission to return to the church. Osborne's nomination by his congregation was denied at the Edinburgh, Scotland, meeting of the Presbyterian Assembly. He resigned the pastorate when the church banned acceptance of the clerkship. —Exchange

This is the time of year to begin the annual anti-fly campaign and from now on "Swat the Fly," will be a universal slogan. The common fly is a nuisance to the good health and well-being of the people. Citizens should screen their houses and keep the flies away from their food in order to eliminate the house-fly pest —Winchester Press.

The Collingwood Enterprise-Bul-letin prints reports of weddings under the heading, "What Women Are Doing." Not everyone has the courage that Dr. "Dave" displays in coming right out and placing the blame where it belongs. Even in Collingwood, however, there is probably a man in the background somewhere. —Midland Free Press Herald.

She was just a little nun, the story goes. But, she was right there on the job in Sicily when there was work to be done to help the poor. The habit of this Roman Catholic sister was smudged with flour and she was perhaps a little tired. But, she worked away, helping the American soldiers distribute food to the hungry Italian women and children. Just a little nun, but doing a big job. —Windsor Star.

Russia has awarded a prize to a farmer-scientist, who, it is said, has developed a type of wheat that will withstand the cold and drought of Central Asia. And not only that, but it will produce a second crop from its stalks, without replanting. Something like that would push Canada's frontier back another 100 miles, and at the same time tempt a lot of farmers to pull up stakes and move with it. —Windsor Star.

We see by a contemporary that a lost wallet was found and restored to its owner, its $43 intact, that this incident clearly demonstrated "that there are honest people in the world." Probably this was written by a young cynic who just could hardly believe that anybody could resist the temptation to acquire $43 without working for it. Thus it is we are told of the piece of honesty as something exceptional. It isn't exceptional at all. It is not true that most people are thieves, restrained from open crime only by fear of the law. It is true that most people are honest and decent. If that were not the case organized society as we know it would be impossible. —Ottawa Journal.

It is impossible to praise too high-ly the ground crews of the Royal Canadian Air Force. The message comes from Pilot Officer Crawford Morder of Fleming, Sask., and formerly of Dresden. Writing home after nearly two score operational flights in the Middle East, the aviator emphasized the work done by the men on the ground. Because it is not so spectacular the ground crew's work is often overlooked in the general performance of the R. C. A. F. These men put the planes in shape and keep them fit for flying. When the pilots and other air crew board their machines for action flight, they have confidence the mechanics have done their work well and the machine is in sound flying trim. As soon as a plane lands it is taken over by the ground men, who have specific duties to perform. Each man has his job and each man is responsible for the performance of his task. If an individual falls down, the operational flight of that particular plane is jeopardized. The air crew stake their lives on the belief that the ground crew men have done their job. — Windsor Daily Star.

There are those who will accuse Dr. Henry C. Sherman of setting up a straw vegetable in his attack on spinach in "The Science of Nutrition," recently published, says The New York Sun. Those who make this charge however, will agree with Dr. Sherman that spinach isn't much of a much. Spinach, says Dr. Sherman, contains a relatively large amount of oxalic acid, undesirable in itself, but doubly undesirable in that it renders unavailable the calcium that spinach contains. Many other green foods, such as kale, broccoli, water cress, collards and looseleaf lettuce, are virtually free from oxalic acid and are important sources of calcium. The amateur gardener could lodge another complaint about spinach. It is fairly easy to grow yet rather choosy about seasons. Its principal weakness is that it is in so much of a hurry to go to seed. Probably this haste to get life over with stems equally from the oxalic acid and from the bad press spinach has had in recent years.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

ISLAND OF DREAMS

Sir,—Oftentimes we hear people speak of the beautiful places they have read about or maybe visited some time or other, and they seem to long for that beauty spot again.

I wonder during this lovely summer season if there is any place more lovely than this Island of ours, often called Island of Dreams or if there exists any greater place to live in right now.

At this season our Capital City, where so many of us earn our daily bread, is in full bloom; our lovely green trees that line many streets are beauty in themselves as they rock in the breeze while the song of the birds drifts from their lofty branches.

The beautiful gardens in the square would attract the eye of anyone. One afternoon a few days ago I stood and admired the beauty of the flowers and the way the gardens were arranged.

Time, just a little time, and nature did the rest.

Later I walked out Brighton to add one more trip to the countless times I had admired those lovely trees that line the way.

On around the Park to the south side where hundreds, young and old, were walking, talking or just basking in the fresh evening breeze from the rippling waters of the harbor.

Some small boats were playing in the breeze while the ferry shuttled back and forth loaded with passengers.

With the exception of uniforms there was very little to remind us we were in the teeth of a world struggle. Every one was so happy basking in nature's glory. On our left, stately and lovely stood Government House and the lovely green lawn was in itself a dream.

Later that same evening, drove out the St. Peter's Road to Mount Stewart, with a friend to gaze at nature's beauty. All the way from about Marshfield one could gaze off at the Hillsboro River winding lazily through the marshes and farm lands, and far beyond the green fields nature in all it's God given beauty; the smell of the new mown hay and fields of cattle grazing so contented in the many green pastures; the ripple of the river that in days gone by had carried many ships to the open sea. A sight that will long linger in anyone's memory.

Only last Saturday when called to Vernon River on business, as the car rolled along at a moderate speed I feasted on the beauty of that part of the country as the other men did the driving. Here the river winds along through the hills and farms in such a way one would really think it's course had been marked out; the lovely green fields waving in the breeze. Getting to the destination we found the house windows filled with lovely plants. Also the verndah outside was aglow with plants large and small, all in full bloom. In a garden nearby were other lovely flowers coming into full blossom. Once again the thoughts came back of that beauty that so many crave and seem to think is locked up in some far away city. I thought how lucky we are to be living in such a garden of dreams, such a wonderland, nature's own corner.

Those are only three of the countless beautiful places in this our Island Home. There are many others, east, west and south of us. It seems to make no difference where we go in this lovely summer time, from east to west, north to south, on the Island it is all the same Garden of dreams.

I received a letter from an old friend in Boston the other day, where we spent many years together. It read in part: "The heat is terrible, such hot weather I never lived through; hope to be on your lovely Island very soon to enjoy its beauty and cool nights; to get a good rest."

Many of us have travelled to other lands; no doubt a good few much farther than this scribe. But what will they all say when asked about the trip? "For beauty there is no place like our own Island of Dreams."

I am, Sir, etc.,
WALTER A. O'BRIEN,
Charlottetown

Housewives Are Part - Time Workers

By MARGARET STEWART
(United Kingdom Information Service)

Labour is now so highly mobilized that the chief problem is how to get the greatest possible efficiency and productivity from the workers in the factories. At the same time, there are still some sources of labour which can be tapped. More women are therefore being urged to take up part-time work in the factories as well as running their own homes.

This is how one British firm, engaged on the production of electrical equipment for heavy bomber aircraft, organized an outwork department. They knew that in a small country town, some miles from their main factory, there were many women who would be glad to offer their services for half a day's work each day of the week. A convenient building near the main street was found and turned into a workshop.

This workshop is run on the same lines as a workshop in the main factory—it is a self-contained unit but factory methods are applied. It employs a hundred women, all except for four full-time supervisors, being on a half time basis and working about 22 hours a week. The first shift works from 9 in the morning to 1 o'clock, the second shift comes on at 1 o'clock and finishes at 5.30. The workers are, of course, paid at the recognized trade union rates.

* * *

A canteen provides snacks and cups of tea and the women can do their shopping and go to market on the way to and from the factory. Most of them are farmers' wives and country women who live in the town or who come in from the neighbouring countryside. They assemble electrical plugs and sockets for bombers. The parts are delivered from the main works and the finished products, after being inspected in the shop, are sent back to the factory. Production charts are prominently displayed on the walls and an output target is set. The scheme is very popular among the women and has been a great success from the production point of view.

A similar type of workshop, on a smaller scale, was started about a year ago, by a group of women who wanted to help in the war effort, in a London suburb. They are relieving a hard-pressed factory making radio equipment in the London area. This shop employs 40 women, mostly housewives of ages ranging from 19 to 60. They are paid at factory piece rates and can earn quite a lot of money on half-time basis. The collection of parts and final delivery takes place once a week; the output having been checked at the shop is sent back to the factory for final inspection.

One girl was appointed to act as trainer for the other women and after some weeks, the standard of output was as high as in the factory, the proportion of spoilt parts being less than one in 1,000.

* * *

This shop was so successful that it led to the establishment of others in the area. Two more workshops employing 80 half-time women were started and a further three are being organized for mechanical assembly, plug assembly and electrical assembly respectively. There has been a good response from the women in the area, indeed the number offering their services was greater than could be accommodated. These women are all volunteers, but they are all enthusiastic about the work, and absenteeism and bad time keeping are rare.

An example of the kind of women who supervises these workers is Mrs. Dorothy Powell, 38 years old, who has been in factories since she was 14. She interviews and engages applicants and is particularly successful with the workers because she can do every job at the benches as well—or better—than they.

Many a time she sits down at the bench beside a woman worker who, for some reason, is not able to work as quickly as she should, and helps her with the job. She is adviser on all kinds of problems. And she has been twice bombed—another experience she shares with many of them.

She does a 54 hour week, cooks dinner for three at night, cleans her house on her one off-day per week, and wouldn't give up her job "for anything."

The idea of part-time work was experimental at first and arose out of war needs and the shortage of man power, but experience shows that part-time work can make a valuable contribution to production.

NOTICE

Any person or persons having rooms to let or houses to let, or who will open their houses for the accommodation of visitors to our City during Old Home Week kindly communicate with the City Clerk's office, phone numbers 53 or 54.

J. A. FULLERTON,
City Clerk

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