

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 1941.

Premier King Overseas

Ever since Prime Minister Churchill's reference to the desirability of holding an Empire war conference in England, feeling has been strong in Canada that Prime Minister Mackenzie King should signify his willingness to attend.

Apart from the importance of the deliberations of such a conference on war policies, it is highly fitting and desirable that Mr. King should follow the example of Prime Ministers of other Dominions by making his presence felt at the heart of the Commonwealth.

"Useless Examinations"

Under the above caption the Saint John Telegraph Journal says:-

"During the present week this newspaper published the names of those who were successful in passing the recent matriculation examinations. It was a long list which covered the whole Province of New Brunswick.

"The explanation of the continuation of this somewhat medieval educational policy is that certain teachers in this province are strongly opposed to any reform. We always thought that the schools of New Brunswick were designed to educate along modern lines and were more or less maintained with the idea of benefiting school children.

"In our judgment the last matriculation examination written in July should be really the last ever written in this province, and if the minister of education has the courage of his convictions he will see to it that New Brunswick gets in stride with Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland."

New Fishery Industry

A new feature of the fishery industry of Canada, notes the current issue of "Agricultural and Industrial Progress in Canada," is the canning of "silversides" as "sardines" by a

Prince Edward Island firm. In 1940 some 800 cases of this fish were marketed in this form. The scallop fishery in the 1940-41 season in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia reported a marked increase.

Canada's sardine industry centres off southwestern New Brunswick, where the pack is made up of immature herring (Clupea harengus). In 1939, however, experiments were undertaken by a Prince Edward Island company in canning silversides (Menidia notata), small silvery fish which run into the inlets and estuaries along the Island's coast in big schools.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A physician can sometimes parry the scythe of death, but has no power over the sand in the hour-glass.

A 467 percent increase in Canadian 1941 lobster sales and a 400 percent increase in United States sales are noted in the report of Mr. D. B. Finn, Lobster Controller, which reviews efforts to develop new markets to replace loss in export business when Europe closed its doors to Canadian lobster two years ago.

In 1939 imports of Canadian frozen vegetables into the United Kingdom, says the Commercial Intelligence Journal, amounted to 16,485 cases, but in 1940 the figure dwindled to 705 cases and trade in this type of product, which promised interesting developments during 1938 and early 1939, may be considered closed for the period of the war.

Had Prime Minister King been a swimmer he would have realized long ere now that it is the first plunge that counts. That taken the rest is easy. He has at long last taken his first aerial flight, and now declares he is airy minded for ever and a day.

At the annual convention of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association at Quebec this week the trophy for the weekly giving the most outstanding community service was awarded to the Advance of Liverpool, N. S., owned and edited by Mr. Cecil Day, son of the late Councillor Day, Charlottetown, who served his apprenticeship with the Charlottetown Guardian.

Britain's fourth national day of prayer since the outbreak of war is announced for Sunday, September 7, and a special call has been made to remember in prayer the armies and people of Russia. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of All England, at the request of the King issued the "special call to remember in prayer the armies and people of Russia and their heroic resistance to the military might of Germany and new and grave anxieties which are rising in the Near and Far East."

Lady Mary Wortley Montague, English authoress, died this date 1762. Is one of the immortal letter writers; daughter of the Earl of Kingston, she married Edward Wortley Montague, diplomat, and accompanied him on an embassy to Constantinople, whence her famous descriptive "Letters" were sent; painstaking in her investigations into all sorts of conditions, in Constantinople she became a pioneer of inoculation for Smallpox, and it was due to a great extent to her advocacy that British opinion in its favour was formed; she also wrote poetry: "Copiousness of words, however ranged, is always false eloquence, though it will ever impose on some sort of understandings."

A problem that has to be met in seeking to make the nation's economic machine function better for war needs is the apparent clash in the aims of functions of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board and the Boards operating under the Department of Agriculture to see that the primary producers get a fair break on their prices. The former has to do with maximum prices, with keeping consumer prices down while the latter is primarily interested in keeping farm prices up.

Although it has not been officially announced, the known movements of various persons concerned point to Newfoundland, with the probabilities favoring Placentia Bay on the south coast where the new United States naval base is situated as the meeting place of President Roosevelt with Prime Minister Churchill. Other possibilities are Notre Dame Bay and Bonavista Bay on the east coast. All the waters mentioned are within easy flying distance of the usual landing place in Newfoundland for transoceanic planes, and would give sea room for escort craft which accompanied the two parties. Newfoundland also provides a highly convenient point between London and Washington, both for purposes of summoning high officials by air and for air courier service between the two capitals.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Any woman who really works at being a woman is conscious of every article she wears. You could blindfold her and she could tell you that she was wearing the pink dainty with the inserted side seams, the row of tiny mother-of-pearl buttons down the back, the muslin ruching cleverly breaking the line of the dropped but not bent shoulder, and the red velvet sash with simulated ear muffs.

There is no doubt whatsoever about the magnitude of the Navy's far-flung job in this war. When all has been said, and most things said, about the necessity of complete co-operation between the three arms, who must act, administer and fight like a band of brothers, it remains true that at this time the Navy is the arm which might die by the sea, and shall win by the sea. The vital essence of sea power was never more fully revealed to all who might have doubted it than it has been during these twenty-two months of war.

The most terrible thing about the English is their persistence. For once this makes a difference. Unfortunately for the peace and comfort of the rest of the world, it is a very slow and not too frequent process—nothing will distract their attention from the job until they have achieved it or satisfied themselves that it is achieved.

At such moments nothing has ever been known to deflect them. Our enemies are gambling on improbabilities if they think it will now. — Arthur Bryant in Illustrated London News.

A recent visitor in the editor's office discussed a theory which attempts to explain, in an unusual manner, many of the ills of contemporary history. This theory does not take credit for originating the theory. It was the creation, he said, of a Cape Breton lawyer. But he was impressed with its suggestion that the theory that society lost a stabilizing influence when men shaved off their whiskers. Just as Samson lost physical strength when his locks were shorn, so do men lose a psychological strength without their whiskers. The theorists maintain that when beards were the fashion parental control within the home was stronger. Hence, they say, was more intensive. When he issued his commands to the family through a crop of whiskers. As a result there was a greater respect for the head of the family and a more rigid training for young people during the years of development.

Civilians in Great Britain are now getting along with 24,500,000 fewer pairs of boots and shoes a year, but a steady increase in the numbers shipped overseas is reported from Northampton, heart of the shoe industry. Before the war Britain bought 108,000,000 pairs of leather boots and shoes a year and it is a sufficient indication of the large resources of the British industry that, not until July 1, two years after rationing had been begun in Germany was it necessary to restrict the total of 80,500,000 pairs. —British Industries Bulletin.

We have more and better cows now than when Canada was exporting in excess of 200 million pounds of cheese annually to Britain. Surely we can spare the 112 million pounds this year, even if we have to do with a little less ice cream and candy. — Farmer's Advocate.

One hundred years ago this month, Thomas Cook, a prominent temperance worker who ten years before had organized a big temperance demonstration. He wanted to bring a party of sight-seers as he called them, from the city of Leicester, ten miles away. Horse transport would have been impossible. The railway was at that time a primitive mode of travel, but Thomas Cook conceived the idea of hiring a special train to carry his Leicester supporters to Loughborough and back. It carried 370 people at one shilling (twenty-five cents) return. Those people did not know it, but they were making history. That was the first excursion train in the world—and the foundation of Thomas Cook & Son, the greatest travel agency today. — St. Thomas Times-Journal.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

CONGESTION AT BORDEN

Sir:—Here is an example of the transportation difficulties which we are up against in this Province. A party of Summerside people, going by car to Moncton for the weekend, left Summerside at ten minutes past 10 a.m., and were unable to leave the car station at Borden, to leave there until 7 p.m. They arrived in Moncton at 11 p.m., just twelve hours after they started out. It was pouring rain and they had to keep in the car for most of their time on the boat. One member of the party was not in good health and could not walk up to the hotel for a meal, so they had to hire a Borden car to take them from the dock to the hotel. Here, owing to the congestion, they had to wait some time before getting in. The hotel people told them they had been working all night. They were out of meat and vegetables, and could only supply eggs on toast. A good many motorists were worried about gas, all the gas being bought in Borden early in the day. Later, however, another supply arrived. One man, a commercial traveller, informed the Summerside party he did not get over Borden "all hours" and arrived in Moncton at 4 o'clock Sunday morning.

I am, Sir, etc. PRINCE COUNTY.

Hitler Might Try It

(Toronto Telegram) If any Canadians imagine that the Atlantic is a complete buttress against German air raids on central Canada, they have only to glance at the map and ponder the present ocean flights. Large machines carrying a sizeable load of men can travel long distances. Invaders with a few markings might escape the vigilance of patrols and enter Canada in some wild uninhabited region. Thence they might fly south to bomb the cities or, hidden in the forest, a number of men in civilian clothes who were trained in the work of sabotage. In desperation Hitler might well try such tricks in this war of surprises.

Another Lost Art

(Exchange) Fifteenth century stained glass windows have been removed from the village church at Nettleshead, Kent, England, and the glass is being stored underground for safety. At other places in England, we are informed the manufacture of stained glass windows is proceeding to fill orders in the United States. During the last war most of the great windows from the Notre Dame in Paris were removed and placed in leaded boxes which were deposited at the bottom of the Seine River. Our information is that such windows could not be replaced. It was a case of lack of money, but simply that the making of such windows was actually one of the lost arts. To see such windows in a proper light reveals that much of the work of the fine-spin web of a spider's web.

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WORDS OF CHALLENGE

A THOUGHT A DAY FOR A PEOPLE AT WAR

"The defence of freedom must be a positive thing. We must not be afraid to act, and we must be prepared to act swiftly and suddenly." — Wendell Willkie.

The Arvida Affair

(Saturday Night) For two weeks past we have put this paper to press without a word of comment upon the total lack of information available to the public on the Arvida Affair. We do so in the evidently unfounded confidence that no democratic government, not even the Government of Canada, could possibly keep its citizens in ignorance about such a matter for more than a few days at the outside. We have assumed that in the time that must elapse between this paper being printed and being read, something would be done to inform the Canadian public as to the amount of truth that there is in the assertion that several hundred skilled workmen in the province of Quebec are saboteurs, or at least the tools of saboteurs, against the nation's war efforts. But our expectation has been disappointed for two weeks, and our confidence is being undermined. The Government we suspect, has come to the conclusion that if the public is given no facts to remember it will soon forget even the rumors, the charges, the angry words of ministers, the frantic activity of the censorship and all the other amazing things which marked the days between the announcement that the aluminum in the Arvida melting-pots had been allowed to solidify, and the later announcement that the workers were back at work and it would take some weeks to chip it out again.

If the Government has really come to that conclusion, we think it is entirely wrong. We think that the Canadian public is this time thoroughly fed up with being kept in the dark. We think it feels that this is too grave a matter for the Government to bury under the tombstone of the censorship. We do not know just exactly what the Canadian public can do about it, except to keep on protesting, but we think that it will keep on protesting, and we propose to help it. This is in our opinion the most outrageous misuse of the powers of censorship that the Government has yet permitted itself. No military advantage can accrue to the enemy from the publication of the facts about the Arvida Affair. No detriment to Canadian morale can result from the publication, that is not infinitely less than the detriment that is already being caused by the suppression or all information about it. No harm to the prestige and popularity of the Dominion Government can result, which is not infinitely less than the harm already done by the suspicion that its behavior in the Arvida Affair has been kept covertly in concealment. Nothing could strengthen that suspicion more than the policy of totally suppressing all information.

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so. For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow Die not, poor Death; nor yet con'st thou kill me. From Rest and Sleep, whiche but thy picture be; Much pleasure, then from thee much more must flow; And soonest our best men with thee do go— Rest of their bones and souls' delivery!



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W. R. SHAW Deputy Minister of Agriculture

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