

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11th, 1939

The Wrong Note

roadcasting to the world his refusal "now or at any future time to make a statement of Canada's stand toward a hypothetical situation that might arise in some other part of the world" is Mr. Mackenzie King's contribution to the efforts Great Britain is making to maintain the present peace of Europe. He chose the occasion of the celebration of his 20th anniversary as Liberal party leader to make this declaration. On the same day came the statement from Hon. Robert Menzies, Premier of Australia: "If Britain is involved in an European war owing to the pursuit of her present policy Australia will make common cause with her."

Which of the two declarations of policy is likely to promote Empire solidarity and world peace?

This is not the first time that Mr. Mackenzie King has taken untimely opportunity to talk Canada out of the Empire so far as participation in Empire responsibilities is concerned. He did it at Geneva. He has done it on several occasions in Canada. Those who believe, as most Canadians do, that the greatest factor making for peace is Britain's preparedness for any emergency, cannot but deplore such utterances.

At the last session of Parliament Mr. King's lieutenant, Justice Minister Lapointe, made a speech exposing the fallacy of arguing that Canada can remain neutral in the event of Britain being involved in war. She could only do so by seceding from the Commonwealth. Mr. Lapointe went further than this. He quoted from the translation of an article which appeared in a Paris newspaper, by one of the ministers of Austria under the former Chancellor von Schuschnigg, who gave details of a conversation between the former chancellor and Herr Hitler at the famous interview at Berchtesgaden before the invasion of Austria. The quotation selected for emphasis by Mr. Lapointe read as follows:

"Hitler spoke plainly of the danger and the eventuality of a European war. He sketched briefly the external situation of the Reich and that of the other European states. The British Empire, in his opinion, is a colossus with clay feet. The Dominions would not take part in an Empire war. The breakup of the Empire is not only possible, but extremely likely, should war come."

Public men in Canada should take warning from such statements, and give no occasion for further misunderstanding as to the attitude of this country in time of Empire crisis.

Liberal Treaty Bungle

The Halifax Chronicle (Liberal) gives editorial prominence to the report of the Nova Scotia Economic Council submitted last year to the Macdonald Government. The report has just been published and the Chronicle features especially the condemnation by the Council of the British West Indies treaty negotiated by the Mackenzie King Government in 1925. Being a Liberal trade agreement it has always found partisan supporters among Liberal politicians, but this is what the Nova Scotia Economic Council (consisting of Liberal appointees) has to say about it.

"The dislocation of trade resulting from the 1925 Canada-British West Indies Trade Agreement has been a major factor contributing to the distress prevalent in recent years in some branches of two of the Maritimes' primary industries, namely fishing and agriculture."

And the report points out:

"It is particularly significant that the largest increases in Canada's trade with the British West Indies during recent years have occurred in manufactured articles, especially clothing, motor vehicles and other metal products. As far as Canada is concerned benefits from this increased trade have gone almost entirely to the central provinces. The Maritime Provinces have not gained, even indirectly, since few of the raw materials on which these manufactured articles are based are obtained from outside Ontario and Quebec."

The Economic Council recommends that the Nova Scotia Government urge notice of revision of the present agreement at the earliest possible date. The Council further recommends that Nova Scotia should see that when revision is discussed some competent representative of the province be present. The Council recommends, too, that in a new treaty the system of fixed or "frozen" preference be discontinued. It is essential, says the report, that bargaining power be restored to the Canadian government by re-establishing the right to give intermediate tariff reductions to other countries who are willing to give preferential treatment in return.

Two of the Council's general conclusions are emphasized by the Halifax Chronicle:

"1. The trade advantages arising out of the 1925 Canada-British West Indies agreement have been one-sided. The effects has been to increase greatly the sales of British West Indies goods to Canada on a quantity basis, and to maintain the total value of imports on approximately the same levels in spite of much lower prices, while Canadian sales to the British West Indies show a substantial decline in both quantity and value. Added to this is the gain to the British West Indies in tourist business and the loss to Canada incurred through providing a transportation service."

"2. The trade agreement, and the Empire preferences which accompanied it, through causing a shift in Canada's raw sugar imports from

Cuba and the Dominican Republic, contributed greatly to the contraction in their demand for the fish, flour, and potatoes of Canada. The only benefits which Canada has obtained have gone almost entirely to the manufacturing industries in Central Canada."

What a contrast between the effects of this one-sided Liberal treaty and the 1932 Empire Trade Agreements from which our farm producers are still benefiting to the extent of millions of dollars annually!

Ontario's Share

Eastern grain brokers have estimated that the farmers of Ontario will get \$5,500,000 of Government money, as a result of the extension to them of the 70-cent per bushel guarantee for wheat, originally given and restricted to the graingrowers of the Prairies. While this looks like too high an estimate, the sum that will reach Ontario farms from the Federal treasury on this account will be substantial, as market wheat prices are now approximately 17 cents below the guaranteed price. It is fortunate for the taxpayer that Dominion elections do not arrive oftener than once in four years. Ontario's share of this handout, large as it now promises to be, will only be a small percentage of the guaranteed money that will flow from Ottawa to the Prairie country.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Two more days till the Exhibition. Andrew Carnegie, the great Free Librarian, died this date, 1919.

Tourists and visitors generally as well as the ordinary "man in the street" greatly enjoy the privilege of hearing the Light Horse Band in the magnificent setting of Government House gardens.

The Prime Minister did not tell his supporters anything about his election plans on Tuesday, but according to an Ottawa Quid Nunc, his political aids were not so reticent behind the scenes. "Get ready", was the advice, "we never know what a day may bring forth."

When the Australian journalist, Mr. Frank W. Sullivan, visited here this week, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor placed his lovely north shore home at his disposal in order that he might enjoy surf bathing—a courtesy and kindness greatly appreciated by Mr. Sullivan.

No fewer than 76 daily newspapers in the United States have either suspended or merged with other publications since June, 1937. Thirty-five of those closed their doors during the first seven months of 1939. Increasing labor costs, higher white-paper prices and the growing burden of taxation had their parts in forcing these newspapers to the wall. In nearly all instances the papers were forced out because they were not able to pass these charges on to the readers and advertisers. Between 1933 and 1938 the prices paid by newspapers for newsprint rose about 25 per cent.

An old legal axiom has it that it is better 100 guilty persons escape conviction than that one innocent person suffer wrongfully. A case in point has just come to light in New York. A man, without police record, named Caruso was convicted and sentenced to 10 to 20 years imprisonment for a stick-up, and eight months later two ex-convicts, Jacobson and Gottlieb confessed they were the guilty parties. Caruso had been identified by the hold-up victim, Eugene Scamiellino, as one of two hitch-hikers who poked a gun in his ribs on July 29, 1938, ordered him out of his car and drove away. On Monday Jacobson and Gottlieb drove again with Scamiellino. They described in detail the clothes each wore, the conversation that passed between them, and the exact action of the hold-up. When it was over, Scamiellino wiped his brow and said, "These are the fellows who did it, all right. I must have picked the wrong man before."

In certain quarters, especially where Winston Churchill is an idol, Prime Minister Chamberlain and his Foreign Secretary, Lord Halifax, are looked upon as wobblers. This is not the view of either Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin or the Prime Minister of Poland. These recognize silk gloves covering iron hands. What has led to the strengthening of Poland's position in Danzig and the modifying of the German attitude there was Mr. Chamberlain's speech in the House of Commons on July 10. The Polish newspapers expressed great satisfaction over the firmness that Mr. Chamberlain displayed in warning Germany that on the Danzig issue Britain was determined to act in accord with Poland. "Germany," said the official Gazeta Polska, "is left in no doubt whatever as to what Britain would do should Polish rights in Danzig be endangered by a German manoeuvre or tricky German methods." And it was in consequence of this that the Poles asserted their authority in Danzig making the Nazis there draw in their horns.

It is refreshing to find that Europeans now in Canada have no stomach for war, and if it do come prefer to fight on the British side. An Austrian baron, recently arrived to take up farming near Toronto declares—"Should another war break out I shall fight on the side of the British and know that I am right—Hitler is but a passing phase". Similarly German, Italian and Russian Great War veterans, attending the Canadian Legion convention at Brantford, vowed if war come they will fight for Canada against their fatherlands, if necessary. "Like thousands of others I did not want to be a soldier in the last war, but had to do my duty," Carl Yoerg, holder of the Iron Cross and other German war decorations, said, "I think Germany and Britain will never fight again, but if they do I will do my part for my new home, Canada, which I love." Several other German veterans said Yoerg "summed up" thus their own attitude, as did the Italians and Russians. All are now naturalized British subjects.

NOTES BY THE WAY

Alfred P. Sloan, chairman of General Motors Corporation, looks to the fruits of industrial laboratory research for a recovery in business. He pictured the other day the rapid march of air transport, and the great improvement in train travel, the science of synthetics through which new substances are brought into being from coal, milk, cotton, wood, from water and the elements of the air, and the growing family of chemically-created materials known as plastics. Truly it is an amazing advance—one that it is hard for the layman to keep up with even superficially. Most people barely realize how science is reshaping our lives. Yet there still remains those enduring challenges to men that are not met by the most wonderful inventions; rather, they are sometimes made more formidable by them. The distorted use of some of the fruits of genius has brought perils that are all too plain, and the blame for this can certainly not be laid on science, whose armaments are provided first for the happiness of mankind. But it is a stark fact that in many fields the strides of invention have brought not increased happiness, but new problems. The maturity of materialistic progress is too often, in the expression of our deepest feelings, we have made no progress whatever. The man who hits his finger with a hammer today enjoys no advantage over his grandfather, despite the improvement in tools and the ease of work. He says the same thing. There is no achievement in this field, no thought, no imagination. And where you do find an original artist, a man who can say something really new and striking and colorful to express his emotions, nobody seems to imitate him. He has heard some magnificent cusing from a few ignorant men in the backwoods, natural geniuses whom the world has never known or appreciated. Their art has never progressed beyond their little local surroundings. Even their companions failed to take advantage of the educational opportunities thus afforded. They have stuck to the old ways so that there is nothing in our current profanity to shock anyone any more, nothing with real relief. Every man's feelings, after you, have said the same things over and over again, what possible use are they to you as an emotional safety valve? So long as they might distress your wife and shock their neighbors and pervert your children and imperil your immortal soul, they had some authority, some validity. Now when your wife, neighbors and children all know them and say the same things themselves, and read them in the papers as well, what is the use of saying them? A man might as well say silent and let his feelings writhe unrelieved. In the end it is going to be very bad for our nervous systems. — Victoria Times.

Apparently in a recent editorial we did an injustice to the City of Ottawa. We were commenting on the progress of civic beautification in Ottawa and we gave the credit to the Federal Government for all the expenses. The Ottawa City Council quite properly points out that the taxpayers of Ottawa have made large contributions to the beautification scheme of which the public generally knows nothing. It is only fair to the citizens of Ottawa for the contributions they know that the improvements which are making of Ottawa one of the most beautiful capitals of the world. Anyone who can think back to the days of the old Russell House and the Russell Theatre will hardly recognize the downtown Ottawa of today and the driveway system is unsurpassed. Canada is proud of Ottawa as Capital and there is little objection to the expenditure of Federal money on improvements. But Ottawa citizens when they have contributed to the beautification of Ottawa, they should be given their share of credit. We are glad to make amends to Ottawa. — London Free Press.

The almost incredible spread of the motor car is reflected in a table showing registrations from 1885 through 1938. Thus, five years before the turn of the century, only four passenger cars were registered in the United States, and in 1900 the figure had only reached 8,000, while last year the total, including exempt official cars of the Federal Government and the States, was 27,628,879. From this tabulation alone one may realize the revolution in the habits of life, in the facilities for travel and in the knitting together of a nation which has been wrought by the automobile. Last year motorists paid one out of every eight tax dollars, with a total tax bill of \$1,529,312,125. The industry was first in the consumption of steel, gasoline, rubber, plate glass, nickel, lead and motor oil. In addition, was an important consumer of cotton, wool, cattle, hogs, sugar cane, corn, soy beans and a dozen other products of farm and forest, domestic and imported. It accounted for the direct and indirect employment of 5,280,000 workers—or one-seventh of all persons gainfully employed last year—and in every seven rail freight carloads was automotive in character. In a few swift decades the making of motor cars

PUBLIC FORUM

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

LEGION RESOLUTION

Sir,—In yesterday's Guardian I see a letter headed "Legion Resolution on Liquor Question." I am a member of the Legion and am opposed to that part of the resolution that suggests Government sale of liquor. I and many others are opposed to the sale of alcohol or any other poison as a beverage. Of all our many prohibitory laws the one on liquor drinking seems to be the only one that liquor drinkers complain of as interfering with our "British Liberty." The liquor traffic is now in the same stage as the traffic was one hundred and thirty years ago, and I think will meet the same fate. I am, Sir, etc. D. M. ROBINSON. Charlottetown, R.R. 3, Aug. 8th.

EBBSFLEET COMMUNITY GARDEN

Sir,—On the afternoon of August 10th representatives of the Provincial Department of Agriculture as well as Mr. Warren of the Experimental Farm, Charlottetown, met at the Ebbsfleet Garden at Ebbsfleet to discuss prizes awarded by His Honour, Lieutenant-Governor DeBolis for the best plots in the garden. The prize winners were as follows: 1st prize Edmund Doucette 2nd prize Thomas Wedge 3rd prize Mrs. Joseph Trombley. As the jobster season opens on the 10th of the month, the fishermen were especially busy and we did not have a great many men but there was a large gathering of ladies and a great deal of enthusiasm was manifested by the people who owned plots in the garden as well as others from the surrounding districts. It is apparent to all that the garden plots were a demonstration to the fishermen of what could be done on the land as well as to others who own land but are not growing vegetables for winter use. Our Department is looking into the future with the hope that those gardens will have the effect of indicating into the minds of the young the love of the land, of the good earth, and of the means God intended that people should make their livelihood. If it has this effect, then the indirect gain will far exceed the direct benefit which will be obtained from those plots this year. I wish to compliment our Fieldman, Mr. Lloyd Lockroy, who has been given full charge of this work by this Department, as a great deal of credit is due him. We also wish to thank the staff of the Experimental Farm who judged the plots and all those in the vicinity of Ebbsfleet who materially assisted in making this undertaking the huge success it was. I am, Sir, etc. W. H. DENNIS, Minister of Agriculture.

Rolling The Pork Barrel

(Globe and Mail) "They're rolling the pork barrel from the Atlantic to the Pacific and back again," exclaims Dr. Manion apropos the huge sums voted by the Government with no other object than "to buy the votes of the people with their own money." And the deplorable feature is that the people, as represented by the municipalities are falling for it. The word apparently has gone around that the Federal Treasury is wide open and there is an unseemly scramble on the part of cities and towns all over the country to get their feet in the trough. Toronto wants a Dominion Government grant for a new sewage disposal plant. Mayor Day couldn't get it. Ottawa fast enough, he travelled back and forth by aeroplane. Owen Sound notes that other cities have obtained Federal assistance to build airports and asks, "Why not an airport for Owen Sound?" St. Catharines, observing the general trend, demands the beautification of the old Welland Canal. Where does the money come from? One answer is supplied by

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Canal, London is in the running with a Federal proposal of \$485,000 toward a municipal airport, but Windsor does even better with a grant of \$200,000 plus Federal maintenance for ten years. The raid has raised alarming proportions, and it seems doubtful that there is a city, town or village in the entire Dominion that will not get a chunk of the election before the snow flies. Everybody believes in national economy—for some other community. But if Montreal can get a new \$12,000,000 railway station, why shouldn't Toronto have a palatial sewage disposal plant to match its pumping station with marble halls? If Windsor can have a modern airport with money from Ottawa, can London be blamed for friendly rivalry? And why shouldn't the old Welland Canal be made a thing of beauty and a joy forever? Ottawa has poured money, and continues to pour money, into every cove and inlet in Nova Scotia. In fact, so many millions were squandered in the dying days of the recent session of Parliament that a Winnipeg member was moved to wonder whether there is any inlet or wall or breakwater that has been omitted from the appropriations. It was to be expected that the Liberal stronghold of Quebec would not be overlooked. Trust Monsieur Gardin for that. But the word has evidently got about in French Canada that the Government and the municipalities are on a spending spree, and Prime Minister Mackenzie King is to receive on Thursday a delegation of Quebec Mayors who will make the pilgrimage to Ottawa with Premier Maurice Duplessis at their head. We have the word of Hon. Orestes Gagnon that it will be "a historic gathering." Mr. Gagnon knows how the Ottawa pork barrel works, and he says that, "after having spent \$32,000,000 in one year, we truly have the right to ask the Dominion Government to collaborate in the best understanding and harmony." All that remains is for Prime Minister Mackenzie King to promote the bonne entente. Where does the money come from? One answer is supplied by

Longer and Better Life

The average wage-earner now has reason to believe he will, with luck, live to be nearly sixty-two. That estimate of life-expectancy at birth, established for 1938 by a well-known life insurance company, is the highest ever recorded. It applies to America's policyholders, but the general expectancy is if anything, a little higher. Back in 1911, when such figures first began to be kept, the average life expectancy on this scale was only 46.63 years. So the improvement in the average man's chance for long life is certainly marked. What is needed now is not so much to make life longer as to make it better. And just as the improved long life expectancy has been achieved by steady work in matters of public health and improved diet and living conditions, so the job of making life better as well as longer will be a long one. Its successes are made up of the sum total of many little advances. Shorter working hours here, better recreation facilities there, a war prevention, a disease conquered—little by little we push forward toward a better as well as a longer life.

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The Poets' Corner THE BIRD AND THE HOUR The sun looks over a little hill And floods the valley with gold— A torrent of gold; And the hither field is green and blue. Beyond it a cloud outrolled, Is glowing molten and bright; And soon the hill, and the valley and all, With a quiet fall, Shall be gathered into the night. As yet a moment more, Out of the silent wood, As if from the closing door Of another world and another lover's mood, Hearst thou the hermit pour— So sweet! so magical!— His golden music, ghostly beautiful. —Archibald Lampman

For Vitality always use BRAHMIN ORANGE PEKOE TEA A Pitcher Must Have "Something" MEANING THAT TO MAKE GOOD HE MUST HAVE SPEED, CONTROL, CHANCE-OF-FACE, etc., THAT EXTRA "SOMETHING". YOU WILL FIND THAT EXTRA SOMETHING TOO IN HICKEY'S BLACK TWIST Chewing 10c Per Fig "EAST POINT TO NORTH CAPE" Manufactured by HICKEY & NICHOLSON TOBACCO CO., LTD., Charlottetown

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