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"The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest link."

MONDAY, NOV. 8, 1954

No Retreating Footsteps

War, in the memoirs of generals, is apt to give the impression of being a matter of plans which succeed or fail and are followed by other plans.

"No Retreating Footsteps" chronicles the career of the North Novas from their designation as an overseas battalion until after VE Day.

The shooting of prisoners is referred to and an incident is perhaps significant. S. S. troops had taken prisoners who had fought to the last at Authie against odds of more than five to one.

In the six weeks after D-Day the battalion suffered 850 casualties, including 45 officer casualties and 17 company commanders.

Clearing the Channel ports was a costly but necessary operation in order to make Antwerp available as a source of supply for further campaigning.

The end of the Scheldt campaign had its humorous side. A feature of the affair was that while tanks were firing from a position among the sand dunes, a large number of civilians including women and children were standing by.

There are many other episodes of fighting and even a shipwreck, the survivors of which armed themselves with shot guns and other weapons from a nearby hardware store and continued the fight.

Frail Vessel Of Peace

The United Nations, great hope of mankind when the world emerged from the shadow of World War II, has become today a frail vessel of peace.

The reasons given by General Romulo for concluding, as he puts it, that the UN has "come to a point of diminishing returns," are not without significance.

There is much truth in what General Romulo says. Unfortunately, however, the main reason for the failure of the United

Nations lies in a widespread popular misconception as to its functions. It had its origins in a defensive alliance borne of conflict during World War II.

The United Nations was never intended to be a supra-national body which individual sovereign states would be subservient. Rather, it was a great alliance for peace, which has failed because of the defection of the Soviet Union.

Ebb Tide In Immigration

A disquieting feature of the Canadian economic scene is the manifestly downward trend in immigration. According to latest reports from Ottawa, the number of immigrants entering the country this year will not exceed 160,000.

The official explanation given by Ottawa for the drop in immigration is that Canada is unable to absorb more than the number forecast for next year.

Whatever merits such caution may appear to have on a short-term basis, and however great may be the pressures upon government to be even more restrictive in its immigration policies, the fact remains that people, in the long-term sense, are assets rather than liabilities on the nation's economic balance sheet.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Maritime Winter Fair is past but the glory won by Prince Edward Island exhibitors lingers on.

Undaunted by recurrent dock strikes, the British Government has tackled the problem of reducing the time that civil servants devote to tea.

The all-Province menu of the proposed Ottawa civic luncheon for the Queen Mother certainly contains a choice assortment of viands.

The watered-down United States proposal for a U. N. atomic energy commission does not include provision for international control but will provide machinery for international co-operation.

It is welcome news from J. Watson MacNaught, M.P., that he has definite assurance from Ottawa that the number of personnel at the Summerside air station instead of decreasing will be substantially increased in the near future.

John Milton, England's most illustrious poet after Shakespeare, died this date 1674. He had a profound knowledge of language and literature both of classical times and his own.



Building Strongly

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion of public affairs by correspondents of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

THE POTATO PLEBISCITE

Sir,—My purpose in writing this letter is to clear up a few points regarding the plebiscite which have come to my attention.

There have been many comments made in the press that we who oppose this scheme are working for the dealers. In answer to this I would like to say right here that I am not working for or with the dealers.

MR. MCISAAC REPLIES

Sir,—Although I personally felt it unnecessary to comment further on some of the statements appearing in your columns this past week, several farmers have asked me to do so.

With respect to Mr. Scales' letter claiming a technical discrepancy in the Potato Board Financial Statements, I trust that this has been clarified by the letter from H. R. Deane & Company which appeared in Saturday's issue.

Mr. MacDonald's cure for the ills of the potato industry is much worse than the disease. Why eliminate competition? We often criticize large corporations which undersell their competitors and thereby eliminate competition.

ON HIS BLINDNESS

When I consider how my light is spent, Ere half my days in this dark world and wide, And that one talent which is death to hide, Lodged with me useless, though my soul more bent To serve therewith my Maker, and present My true account, lest He returne and chide, Doth God exact day-labour, slight denied? I fondly ask; but Patience, to prevent That murmur, soon replies, God doth not need Either man's work or His own gifts: who best, if you are best, Bear His mild yoke, they serve Him best: Is kindling Thousands at His bidding speed, And post o'er land and ocean without rest: They also serve who only stand and wait.

The Age Old Story

And the word of the Lord came unto Zechariah, saying, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassions every man to his brother.

escape the board if this scheme were in effect would be to sell his farm and move off the Island.

I have been a producer of potatoes for several years, growing on the average about 18 acres. I have always tried to produce a quality product and with few exceptions I have had no marketing problems.

Old Charlottetown

TEMPERANCE SENTIMENT "Twenty years ago, or even not so long a time ago, it was the custom of nearly all our merchants to sell liquor. A man doing any business at all did not deem it complete unless liquor formed a part of his merchandise.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Sir,—I have attended various of the potato meetings being held and the discussions that are taking place among the growers at home, and I find that we are all very much upset over what seems to be a war between the potato dealers and the Potato Marketing Board.

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NOTES BY THE WAY

An engineer on the Union Pacific obtained a lease of right-of-way land and for years has grown wheat on a "farm" 11 miles long and 85 feet wide. There, surely, the plowman "homeward plods his weary way." —Toronto Telegram.

First, and sometimes lasting, impressions of Canada are gained by millions in all parts of the world through the medium of the Canadian postage stamp. Affixed to letters from this country going to all parts of the globe, they convey a subtle impression of the country of origin. —Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

never was. No such statement was ever made by me, or, as far as I know, by any member of the Selling Agency staff. Mr. MacDonald refers to supporting an "old line" which he "humbly respects" on Remembrance Day. I do not see how this is relevant to the Potato Board, or to my letter, but wish to assure him that I, too, after about four years' service in the R.C.A.F., am proud as anyone to wear a Poppy and participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies.

Now, Mr. Editor, there is one more point which I would like to make in closing. This has reference to the many slurs and accusations made against Mr. D. A. MacDonald during the past several months. Although he and other members of the Board have advised me not to make any statement which could not be substantiated by proof in the form of evidence or figures, I feel it is in the best interests of the farmers of the province to inform them of one incident that took place and which I know to be true although there is nothing in writing nor witnesses to prove it.

Three major causes — faulty heating equipment, careless smoking habits and misuse of inflammable liquids—cause two-thirds of the more than 1,000 fires that occur in Canada weekly. Officials of the All-Canada Insurance Federation, which represents more than 200 fire automobile and casualty insurance companies, said that many fires are caused by faulty chimneys, flues, stoves, misused fireplaces, hot ashes and sparks on roofs. Further, it is estimated that matches and careless smoking habits have been responsible for nearly 30 per cent of all fires from known causes over the past 10 years. —Guelph Mercury.

as this has not proved to the benefit of the farmer anywhere. A friend of mine in the U.S.A. mailed me a copy of a daily report on potatoes and it gave all the information about prices at different points, shipments which were being made and the prospects of movement. Attached is an excerpt from the report which is used in Maine where they have good marketing without a compulsory pool.

Enclosure Monday Nov. 1, 1954; Min. 30; Max. 42; Snow all day. (Aroostook County Points) Offerings light, demand slightly improved, market about steady. Carlots U.S. 1 size A 2 inch minimum unweighed various varieties mostly Katahdin paper 50's very few sales plain appear. Offer packages too few to quote. Warehouse cash to grower bulk per barrel measure Central Points U.S. 1 basis 1.75-2.00.

POTATO MARKETING ISSUE

Sir,—Fort Augustus has been very silent on this important and much debated question of how we should dispose of our lovely spud. I would like to draw attention to the tirade of accusations begun at the outset which I forswore as being of un-sound judgment. I refer to the drawing up of a resolution at a rural meeting where the attendance was 25 per cent from the City.

Many unfair things have been said about Mr. D. A. MacDonald during this plebiscite period. He has taken it all in his stride. He made fine speeches and wrote fine letters, some of them masterpieces.

I am not suggesting to anyone how they should vote on the 10th. Each qualified voter is quite capable of making up his own mind, but I do wish to say that this whole thing has been settled by the consensus of the Premier, the officials of the Marketing Board and two or more gentlemen with the interests of the industry at heart.

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