

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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President: Lieut. Col. W. Chester S. McLure
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Modified Encomium

Commenting on Hon. Angus L. Macdonald's return to his first love as Premier of Nova Scotia the Globe and Mail, Toronto, pays tribute to his statesman-like qualities. It credits him with forcing the reinforcement issue in the King Cabinet when he co-operated with several colleagues to bring about the crisis which compelled Mr. King to accept a small measure of conscription for overseas service after the revelation of Major Conn Smythe, M.C., about the deplorable shortage of reserves for the front line.

"Premier Macdonald," says our Toronto contemporary, "has been convinced that the task of building a better Canada is one that inevitably will fall upon the youth of the Dominion, and it is not surprising that he has proposed policies which the party under his leadership will seek to promote. It is to be expected that a bold, vigorous and forward-looking stand will be taken with a view to general improvement in the economic condition of Nova Scotia's people."

That is the kind of political leadership which is wanted in the Maritimes, and very badly wanted. It must be pointed out, however, that it was not Mr. Macdonald who "forced the issue" on conscription but our then Prince County representative, Col. J. L. Ralston. It was Col. Ralston who resigned (or was fired) for refusing to countenance Mr. King's double-cross of our fighting forces. By remaining in the cabinet Mr. Macdonald was a silently consenting party to that deal, as he was to the dirty deal Col. Ralston got for his outspokenness. Mr. Macdonald may have spoken boldly enough at caucus and cabinet meetings, but that was not enough. That was behind closed doors, and didn't embarrass Mr. King any. What was needed at the time was three or four more Ministers at Ottawa with the courage of a Ralston; and not one was to be found.

Farmer's Contribution

When it is possible to write the full story of the war work done in the past six years by the men and women of the Canadian farms, it will be a heroic saga of self-sacrifice, ceaseless labour, victory over difficulties in the shortage of help and machinery, and the never-ending fight against the elements. Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war. The farm folk of Canada, like farm folk everywhere, are fundamentally people of peace. Paradoxically without them war could not be waged, so it is appropriate to pause and give due measure of appreciation to the people who made an immeasurable contribution to victory.

In other countries, unintentional forgetfulness of what farm men and women have achieved in war time is an old story, although that story is not likely to be repeated in Canada. About 1,600 years ago, the Visigoth farmers settled by Theodosius south of the Danube were forgotten and left to their own resources under harsh conditions. Yet much was expected of them in the way of supplying food. So they started the first major farm strike on record and were stopped from occupying Rome only on the payment of a large farm loan, then spoken of as a ransom.

Again in the world, the time has come "when they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruninghooks." After every war, the ploughshares and pruning-hooks are sorely needed. On the declaration of peace, the Canadian farmer, with his outworn machinery, looks forward to the time of full supply which includes a long list of necessary implements.

Throughout the war, the farm men and women of Canada met with courage and uncomplaining endurance the many demands made upon them even when it would appear that the impossible was being asked. Agriculture has helped place Canada in the vanguard of nations. Now an opportunity presents itself for the nation to place farm folk in the forefront under conditions and surroundings worthy of the victories of peace.

The Alaska Highway

The Alaska Highway cost, in round figures, one hundred and fifteen million dollars. It was constructed as a war measure, and the question of what to do with it now that peace has been restored is agitating the minds of those who will be responsible for its maintenance. It is 1,522 miles long and, according to expert opinion, it will cost something like \$700 a mile to keep it in good repair. It is not thought at all likely that the road will ever become popular with tourists, because of the absence of motoring facilities along the route and the nature of the road itself. Residents of Alaska would prefer to have a highway more conveniently located for their requirements, and there is a proposal to open up another route, to serve important coastal activities. If such a highway is built, the expense should, it is suggested, be shared by the United States, Canada and the province of British Columbia. It will be recalled that two years ago there was talk of such a project being undertaken, the estimated cost being something less than twenty million dollars, British Columbia contributing

six million. As nothing came of the proposition, the latter sum has been set aside by the province to provide a link with the existing Alaska highway, between Prince George and Fort St. John.

Apart from the question of tourist traffic, the Alaska Highway, it is admitted, serves a useful peace-time service. It has become part of Alaska's road system, and opens up the central and northern sections of that area to the port of Skagway. The United States gave a fillip to the development of the Alaskan portion of the highway by making available over eight million acres of Government land to the public, with the object of exploiting the timber, mineral and other natural resources. There is a strip, between Watson Lake and Fort Nelson, which is considered as having small value in itself, but it is argued that the money spent on its maintenance would not be wasted, in view of the strategic military importance of the road.

EDITORIAL NOTES

This is the annual Tag Day for the blind—enough said!

Tomorrow the churches will be minus the students gone to the mainland colleges and universities, but their places will be largely taken by returned veterans.

Premier Jones certainly is a top-notch at a Holstein-stock breeder, and is to be congratulated on his success and the reflected glory it brings on the Province. Certainly \$10,000 for a six months old bull calf is something to dream of, but rarely realized in the cold cash of reality.

Victualing Supply Issuing Ships of the British Pacific Fleet Train are designed to carry 30,000 men-months of meat, vegetables and non-refrigerated stores, including clothing and mess gear, to meet the needs of 10,000 men for one month. The Pacific Fleet and its Trains can empty one of these in about 10 days.

The London, Midland and Scottish Railway and the London and North-Eastern Railway, by their direct rail services, have brought to England for this season's planting 254,000 tons of Scottish seed potatoes, an increase of 19,000 tons over the previous season. In addition, these companies conveyed more than 55,000 tons by rail to Scottish ports for shipment to England by coasting vessels.

It was a happy coincidence that Mr. J. G. Clark, Editor of the Windsor Star, should be in the City when the notorious Windsor bank robbers were captured and brought to book. He was thus enabled to wire home practically an eye-witness account of the occurrence. Mr. Clark, and his publisher, Mr. Graybill, are almost citizens of this Province, as they return year after year to enjoy its climate, beaches and hospitality.

A good deal of criticism is being levelled at the powers-that-be for giving preference, in certain instances, to politics and nepotism, in filling vacancies in the public service. The returned Vets should have, nay, must have the first refusal. It is not good enough to plead that so-and-so would have enlisted if he could, but he couldn't. Insistence must be made in every instance where an appointment has to be made that an enlisted man get the job or his refusal.

No one, least of all loyal Prince Edward Islanders, would refuse to tighten their waist belts for the famine-stricken elsewhere, but the kick it that we are being asked to do so in the midst of abundance which will largely go to waste if not utilized in ordinary consumption. The primary cause is the bureaucrats took undisputed authority to make their fellows do their best, willy-nilly, and then, for political, election purposes, let up. To make leeway they now introduce harsher regulations than heretofore, compelling the long, hard suffering retailer and middle men, the media of their enforcement, to suffer the consequences.

The first successful balloon ascent took place in London by a Frenchman, Vincent Lunardi, this date 1784; the celebrated British chemist, Dr. George Fordyce informed him of the buoyant nature of hydrogen gas, with the mode of its manufacture, and to this information Lunardi's successful ascents are attributed; a poet exclaimed: How few the worldly evils now I dread, No more confined this narrow earth to tread! Should fire or water spread destruction dread, Or earthquake shake this subterranean sphere, In air-balloon to distant realms I fly, And leave the creeping world to sink and die.

Is Canada to remain the world fur centre? The U. S. A. commercial department, Washington, declares that the war's end poses the question whether United States will continue in its newly won position as principal buyer of Canadian furs. The United States bought only about a third of Canada's pre-war fur production, Great Britain being the principal purchaser. Buyers from this country acquired additional Canadian furs in the London market. But in 1944 the United States purchased more than 95 per cent of Canada's fur exports at \$25,748,651. An official department publication said the pertinent question now is this: "Will buyers once more trek to London and even to more distant places to choose pelts for the American trade?" It is significant that the fur trade between the United States and Canada flourishes today as never before, being truly reciprocal in nature, and a strong relationship has been established during these trying years between the two nations which together produce and consume an important share of the world's furs."

Notes By The Way

A farmer near Robin, Manitoba, has dug up a piece of pemmican, which is extremely dry and tough and estimated to be 150 years old. The farmer has a piece of this stuff, but he calls it steak.—Petersborough Examiner.

Autumn is the incoming guest, Summer the departing friend. There is a matchless timing to these two seasons, but the time is too long lingering here, and there is philosophical truth in the saying that the flow of the seasons teaches one again that nothing is constant but change.—Victoria Times.

While the accolades are being passed out so profusely for one thing, there is certainly an Oscar should be presented to Barbara Hutton Grant, the dime-store heiress. If there must be such a thing as divorce, she has found a unique reason. She is the first woman in history who was granted a divorce because her husband because she bored him.—Chicago Daily News.

Grilled kippers served in grease-proof wrappers are the latest change to hot dogs for eat-as-you-go snack meals. They were first time at a victory carnival in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, they sold for three pence. About 6,000 kippers, hot from the grill, were bought and eaten by customers, whose method was to wrap the tail in the grease-proof wrapper, and eat it with the right hand, and eat it on the move.—London Express.

Between six and seven million unexploded German land mines are scattered in the fertile fields and sandy beaches of Normandy and Brittany. Since D-Day an average of 200 people, including many children, are killed by these mines each month by German mines. On Aug. 1, only one-tenth had been removed by French workmen and German prisoners of war trained in the United States sappers. The dangerous job will not be finished before 1947.—Times Magazine.

A new phonograph record which is exclusively for children appears on the market. Now, no matter how many children there are in the house, the elders may be assured that their symphonies and other selections will not suffer any damage. Demonstrations have proven that the record is preserved on the floor, or even dented, and it will still be as good as new. It is made of a plastic material, and is not subject to restricted during the heat of summer, and its qualities are such that even surface sounds are eliminated.—Boston Post.

Empires may totter, captains and kings may have, but give cheer, girls. Civilization is preserved, and soon the world will be a good place to live in once again. Nations will be back on the map, and by Thanksgiving or by Christmas at the latest. The boom is on for the ladies. The girls will disillusioned masculine eyes have to look upon horizontal accounts of the latest in midday's shoe tops. No more will they paint jobs parade the street like an epidemic of spotted fever.—Detroit Free Press.

A conspiracy of silence seems to have been hatched in the soap situation, which goes from worse to worse. The time would appear to have arrived for someone in authority to explain the soap situation in regard to soap, why it is scarce and apparently to explain to the consumer why consumers have almost to go down on bended knees in order to obtain it. The soap that we are normally able to buy is not the same as someone should tell us about it, and they should also explain how the soap is made, and why it is clean, is going to manage if domestic stocks are allowed to be sold in the open market.—Brookville Recorder and Times.

Two young women are reported to have hitchhiked their way from Ontario to Florida in 13 days and their total expenses up to that time were \$20. They had the intention of making for Alaska if they can. Perhaps they are doing a very clever thing, something that is not talked about for the rest of their days. We fail to see it that way. Hitchhiking is all right, and it does not become a permanent habit, which we are afraid it is with some people, but if these girls are seeing the world on less than one cent each, they must be doing a lot of plain sponging on strangers. A great deal of repair and redressing is impressed.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

The glory of the English is literature. It is a masculine literature, exceeding rich. The English culture has spilled over in print. On the whole their literature is too difficult to read, and the higher poetry is amongst the finest in the world. Finally, their politics have become an art. All English parties are, at heart, the same because the English have a great likeness between themselves. Votes are bought and sold, and the heart of their politics because all English people feel they have the right to be, and also the right to spread their ideas and ideals throughout the world. They also think they understand the technique of government better than anyone else in the world.—Catholic Record.

Reports from Toronto suggest that the Provincial Government is concerned with safety standards in terms of the present state of cars and tires. There is a possibility that the Ontario highway speed limit may be reduced to 40 miles an hour, since neither cars nor tires are in condition to stand the increased speed, and the higher speeds that are likely to be indulged in illegally. Nor, might it be suggested, are the roads capable of sustaining the speeds without hazard to any who may rightfully be using the roads. A great deal of repair and redressing of roads and highways needs to be done before higher speeds are encouraged. As a result, pedestrians who have equal rights to the road, but who are crowded off by the presumption of the motorist to an overriding right. Ditches and soft shoulders are no substitute for adequate footpaths. No highways should be laid out without proper provision for the traveler on foot. And existing highways should be provided with such guarantees of safety rights on the road.—Ottawa Citizen.

P.E.I. Opportunities In Canning Industry

By H. E. S. HEMMING

Notes on vegetables and fruits that can be grown to advantage in Prince Edward Island for canning purposes, concluded from yesterday's Guardian.

Swiss Chard: Outstanding in yield and quality. Turnips: Turnips and Swedes excellent for pickling purposes. We can grow a green Ontario to excellent advantage.

Vegetable Marrow: Excellent. Probably cannot compete with Ontario by selling in fresh form, but believe we can do so in the canned product.

Apples: Excellent for some high quality varieties. The flavor and texture of island apples are, I believe, equal if not superior to those of Nova Scotia and also of the Ontario Valley where they lack our cold nights and winter atmosphere. Perhaps our chief trouble would be the autumn winds causing the apples to drop, but by protecting the fields by high winds, this could be largely overcome.

Blackberries: Would have no experience. Blueberries—wild: Would say opportunities excel here. The Island has already obtained a reputation for wild blueberries but it seems to me there is no reason why the same plants should not be cultivated and raised to a higher quality. By this means the picking could be done much more expeditiously than wandering through wild fields.

Strawberries, highly cultivated: I spent a week in Cape Cod where high blueberry is grown fairly extensively. I believe that we have the exact soil required for its cultivation.

Cranberries: Opportunities excellent here. I believe that we can produce cranberries more successfully than Cape Cod, where we can obtain fresh water lakes or rivers from which to submerge the berries from frost or to kill insects in mid-summer. This is probably our main shortcoming but in some cases we can have springs close to the bogs which could be surrounded by dykes and the lakes used for irrigation for the bogs. This is a natural asset which calls for closer study than is being given to it.

Currants, red: Yield and quality excellent. Currants, white: Yield and quality excellent.

Damsons: Yield and quality outstanding. Must be well sprayed for black knot. This knot DDT will overcome this menace.

C gooseberries: Opportunities excellent. Loganberries: Tender; cannot compete with southern Ontario.

Plum: European varieties same as for Damsons, but subject to black knot. Ontario best for Japanese varieties. I do not believe we could compete with Ontario in returns should be sufficient to return cultivation, however. Being able to have an entirely comparative little labor involved.

Strawberries: Outstanding in yield and quality. I believe that our strawberry is fully equal to the wonderful English berry and that they afford a particularly profitable opening for Prince Edward Island. The strawberry is a manufacturer of Britain prior to the war, being unable to obtain the Holland, buying on an average \$1.00 per annum. These were strawberries were packed in crates subjected to sulphur dioxide stored loss of time and were sold at a loss. During the following winter I had no reason to suppose that this berry jam to export strawberries and obtaining a 99 per cent rebate on the sugar for the purpose of exporting. I believe that we could yield per acre would amount to \$300 to \$350. Prior to the war the chief strawberry growing large quantities of strawberries there were insufficient women and children to pick them. This difficulty has been entirely overcome in the Niagara Peninsula by inducing young girls during their summer holidays to go to the district and earn a few dollars throughout the whole months of July and August. There, however, they are subjected to extremely uncomfortable heat whereas in this Province we would be able to offer a very desirable summer vacation with good salary at the same time.

The Poet's Corner

THE NEWER VAINGLORY
Two men went up to pray; and one gave thanks. Not with himself—aloud, With proclamation, calling on the ranks. Of an attentive crowd.

"Thank God, I clap not my own humble breast, But other ruffians' backs, Imputing crime such is my tolerant haste— To any man that lacks.

"For I am tolerant, generous and keep no rules, And the age honours me. Thank God, I am not as these rigid fools. Even as this Pharisee." —Alice Meynell.

EARLY STENOGRAPHERS
Records indicate that an organized system of shorthand was used as far back as 80 B.C.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

POLITICS AND POTATOES

Sir,—Politics must be removed from the potato business if private enterprise is to continue. In order that the readers of your paper may clearly understand my remarks, I feel it necessary to illustrate.

Thirteen years ago, I was forced into bankruptcy due to a very heavy loss on potatoes that were frozen in transit from origin to destination. At that time it was necessary that my warehouse now occupied by the Canada Packers be sold under forced sale. Everything I owned, automobile, personal belongings, were sacrificed and I had to start from scratch, borrowing money here and there from friends, as I had no security whatever to offer. About the same time the P.E.I. Potato Growers Association was formed. They also called in an auditor to find the seriousness of their position and the result was that individual members and directors of the Association discussed their problem with the Provincial Government. The late Hon. W. M. Lea was then Premier. A few of the members who, it was thought, might vote against the Provincial Government backing the P.E.I. Potato Growers Association were sent off on a special mission and the result was that a recommendation went through the House with a majority of one vote authorizing the Provincial Government to back the P.E.I. Potato Growers Association for the amount of \$100,000 to assist them in carrying on.

A great deal of technique and salesmanship was embodied in the recommendation whereupon the members of the House were more ready to believe and unless they backed the Potato Growers Association the independent dealers could not market that present year's potato crop and very little opposition, if any, was raised because the competitive operators of the Potato Growers Association realized that the cause of their loss was beyond the control and jurisdiction of the management of the potato growers, similar to that of my own.

I got reorganized and everything ran smoothly until we became subject to excess profit tax levied to pay the cost of the European war. What I do consider was very unfair was the fact that P.E.I. Potato Growers Association were made exempt of Excess Profit Tax. They claimed to be a co-operative. This is an exploded idea. They buy and sell potatoes the same as any other independent exporter, but they have the advantage of keeping all their earnings.

As a comparison I quote my financial statement audited by Morrell & Co. "Statements on file in your office show a taxable net profit for 1943 of \$24,973.40." So much for that.

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Shippers, the P.E.I. Potato Growers Association and Frank B. Clarke. For the benefit of the reader, Excess Profit tax was an emergency measure levied along the following lines: all established businesses were asked to submit their net profits covering the four years previous to the War for illustration, a firm which had made \$80,000 over a period of four years would be granted \$40,000 yearly before paying Excess Profit tax. On everything made over the \$20,000 income tax would collect 100 per cent.

The Canada Packers, a very fine concern making millions of dollars annually prior to the war, enjoyed that privilege. The Assn. was shipped a very fine organization making large sums of money prior to the war enjoyed the same. The P.E.I. Potato Growers Association, regardless of what party would be in power, would have to listen to our organization. For further comparison, let us refer to the French order for potatoes to be shipped in excess of that \$50,000, net 100 per cent to excess profit.

For further comparison, we will take a horse race. There is a 2:15 class, there is a 2:19 class, and a free-for-all. Every horse has an equal chance, but not in the exporting of potatoes. I feel it is now the time to organize a P.E.I. Potato Exporters Association. Individually we all feel we are entitled to equal rights, but if we had an organization and a constitution, then the Government, regardless of what party would be in power, would have to listen to our organization. For further comparison, let us refer to the French order for potatoes to be shipped in excess of that \$50,000, net 100 per cent to excess profit.

Now let us view over the French order for certified seed in P.E.I. last year. The complete order was given to Mr. J. Wilfred Boulter, secretary of the P.E.I. Island Potato Growers Assn. He gave a percentage to the Canada Packers and to the Associated Shippers. Why should the P.E.I. Potato Growers Assn. be considered financially assisted thirteen years ago, and later made exempt from taxes, by giving this complete order to the Canada Packers, whom they please, discriminating against hundreds of smaller exporters, including one returned soldier who just opened up a produce business in Charlottetown?

When the Government placed the order this way it gave the three firms full priority on available cars, freeing out completely other independent exporters. There is a possibility that there will be another French order in a few weeks. Are we taxpayers to be confronted with a repetition of last year? Is it not fair to consider that we are forming an organization? If so please get in touch with me. I am quite sure that we can accomplish more if we are allowed to share with other French order in a few weeks. Trusting to hear from many of the different potato exporters throughout the Province.

I am, Sir, etc. FRANK B. CLARKE, Charlottetown.

Art Lopatka, 26-year-old native of Chicago, picked up and won his first major league game for St. Louis Cardinals, defeating the Brooklyn Dodgers, 3-2, at St. Louis and keeping the Cards 2 1/2 games behind the league-leading Chicago Cubs.

The second game of a scheduled doubleheader was postponed because of rain and the two teams will play a twilight-night twin-bill tomorrow night.

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