THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1939

Liberal Budget Guesses

Premier Macdonald, over in Nova Scotia, has budgeted for a deficit. His party organ, the Halifax Chronicle, expresses the belief that the Premier's estimate will prove incorrect but says it is just as well to guess "on the safe side."

The "safe side" of Liberal budgeting is pretty hard to find. Premier Campbell, for example, budgeted for a $63,288 deficit and came out with a $120,174 deficit on current account, a $351,798 increase in liabilities and a total debt increase in two and one-half years of nearly a million dollars. To implement his election pledge he will not only have to balance this year's budget, but produce a surplus sufficient to offset all his deficits plus the extra taxation he imposed; for he gave the specific assurance in 1935 that the budget "could and most be balanced" annually with the then existing revenue, without a cent of additional taxes or the curtailment of any necessary public service.

Now that the Legislature is about to meet, interest will focus on this potential achievement in budget balancing. We can imagine the anxiety with which the Government's supporters are awaiting the issue; for many of them, according to the Liberal organ in 1935, had stated that they would "never run again" if this vital plank in the Liberal platform and manifesto proved a washout. Our contemporary was remiss in not publishing the names of these members who thus demonstrated their sincerity, but doubtless they are known to their constituents and from our recollection of Liberal campaign oratory in 1935 we would say that they comprise practically the whole "noble thirty."

The Butter Problem

Why, in view of the serious butter situation last year, the exchange dump duty was removed on New Zealand and Australian butter entering Canada is one of the unexplained mysteries attending the phenomena at Ottawa known as Liberal tariff tinkering.

An estimate of last year's output shows that the Prairies increased production by about 6,000,000 pounds, Ontario by about 5,500,000 pounds, Quebec by about 4,500,000 pounds, and the Maritimes by about 2,000,000 pounds. On the other hand, there was no material change in consumption figures over the preceding year, when only 65,918 lbs. came into Canada from other countries.

The Liberal contention is that last year's import of over five million pounds was a mere "drop in the bucket," and did not affect prices.

How can this be reconciled with the attitude of Mr. A. E. MacLean, M. P. in the House of Commons in 1933? Mr. MacLean on that occasion complained of the "large quantity" of butter imported in competition with Canadian butter during the preceding thirteen months. The amount was 527,000 pounds.

If the importation of half a million pounds was enough to worry Mr. MacLean when in Opposition, how is one to account for his silence on the subject of last year's importation of five and a quarter million pounds?

Granted that the problem of stabilizing butter prices is not easy of solution, nothing is to be gained by trumping up excuses for the inaction of the King Government in face of last year's serious situation.

The Bennett Government showed its concern for our dairymen in various ways. One of its first measures was to give the home industry adequate tariff protection.

Another Conservative measure was to bonus cheese production,—a measure which the King Government discontinued but which, in a resolution sponsored by Mr. J. Walter Jones, M. L. A., at a recent farmers' meeting in Charlottetown, it is being urged to restore.

Still another evidence of Conservative initiative was noted by Mr. Gordon W. Tovell, secretary-treasurer of the Manitoba Cooperative Dairies, in his report at the conference on markets for Western farm products, held in Winnipeg last December. Mr. Tovell recalled the unsuccessful efforts made to arrange any voluntary plans for export when, in 1935, the Bennett Government stepped in under the Natural Products Marketing Act, and exported 6,508,338 pounds of creamery butter at a total cost to the Government of $74,138, or 1.4 cents per pound. With arrangements made for the removal of this surplus, there was a gradual and steady increase in prices. "This effort at planned marketing," said Mr. Tovell, "in comparison with conditions of the present year (1938) was apparently successful and yet without unfairness to the consumer."

The situation is serious enough today, but what of the future? Mr. Tovell points out that apart from New Brunswick the marked increase in production percentage is in the Prairie Provinces, the home of the wheat farmer. "A very few years ago many Prairie farmers could not milk cows. In the depression years, income from wheat became uncertain and insufficient; the need of supplementing income became urgent and the milking of cows has become fairly general on Prairie farms. If this supplementing of wheat income continues necessary or becomes greater, the cow population of the West will continue to increase, and Canadian butter may be in the same plight that wheat now is, actually seeking markets." So the problem becomes an all-Canadian one, with which the Dominion Government has as much right to be concerned as with the wheat prices.

We conclude with a statement made at the same Winnipeg conference in December by Mr. R. H. M. Bailey, representing the Edmonton Board of Trade:

"Many of the leaders in the producer organizations feel it is useless and a waste of time presenting plans to this department (the Dominion Department of Agriculture). We are not asking for subsidy. We are willing to pay all the cost of any plan for solving the problem. We just ask the consideration of the Government to the facts of the case. We believe, if the Dominion Government will give the time and attention required, that this problem, of a very small percentage of the total production dominating the primary producers' price and costing them millions of dollars, would be solved. Is it not the duty of the Government to work for and with those who contribute so much to the economic life of Canada? In 1937 the dairy industry in Canada poured into the economic life of Canada approximately forty-six million dollars more than the total of the Canadian wheat crop. Should an industry of this nature not receive more consideration from the Dominion Government?"

Editorial Notes

Aubrey Beardsley, famous black and white artist, died this date, 1898.

* * * *

There are certain things in our constitution that differentiates us from other Dominions, says Minister of Justice Lapointe, and moreover are there "of our own will, are there because we want them to be there." Nuff said.

* * * *

All the Provincial Governments, we are told, have made satisfactory arrangements with their respective oppositions to expedite proceedings with a view to having politics in abeyance during their Majesties' visit. This, of course, includes the inarticulate opposition in the P. E. I. Legislature.

* * * *

"If, by government edict or otherwise, advertising were to be forbidden or seriously restricted, there would be no Chrysler Corporation, no General Motors, no General Foods — none of those corporation now affording a living to hundreds of thousands of workers and other thousands of small investors,' says Mr. Paul B. West, president of Association of National Advertisers. "Jobs would be scarcer and the cost of living would inevitably sky-rocket. Our insurance companies would be immeasurably weakened and the whole business structure would be endangered."

* * * *

The habit of many pipe smokers of holding their pipes between clenched teeth may be one of the causes for the increases of deafness among middle-aged persons, the First District Dental Society of the State of New York was told recently by Dr. Edmund Prince Fowler of New York, past president of the American Otological Society, at a meeting at the New York Academy of Medicine. Dr. Fowler described various head and ear conditions that result from an improper bite, among which he included effects of injuries that may result from biting too hard on the stem of pipes while smoking.

* * * *

Our contemporary now admits that in its efforts to refute the farm machinery price increases cited by Mr. Kennedy it quoted prices on a different and cheaper type of machine. If it had explained this in the first place it would not have had to apologize for misleading its readers. Everyone knows that there are variations in the price lists of different machinery companies. The point is that regardless of these variations, the cost price to our farmers increased substantially under Liberal rule. Whatever company is selected as a basis of comparison, the ratio of increase was approximately the same.

* * *

With reference to the passing at the hoary old age of 108 of Mr. Bernard, we may quote from "How Long Can You Live" from the current number of "The Canadian Doctor": "You had a mother and father, two grandmothers and two grandfathers. Take the number of years that each of these ancestors lived, add them together and divide by six. The result will give you — very roughly — your hereditary life expectancy . . . Heredity is a powerful factor in determing a person's span of life. Indeed, the only other factor is environment, which includes the things you eat and drink and the bacilli you bump into . . . Persons who live to advanced age are almost invariably of thin, wiry build . . . The vast majority of extremely long-lived people were of a placid temperment not given to worry. Which leads to the following generalization: The length of life is generally in inverse proportion to the rate of living."

* * * *

Tomorrow the sons of Eire will be celebrating. Here is one of the best stories of blarney ever. A year or two ago there went a visitor to the real Blarney, a Yankee visitor, of whom there are crowds at that legendary castle of eloquence every tourist season. This visitor was different. "Since the famous Blarney stone is not for sale," says he, "I'll buy the Blarney quarry from which it came." "What for?" said they. "To take it to America of course," says he. The people voted this the incredibly best bit of "blarney" that had ever been invented even in that metropolis of "soft talk." The visitor left and the laughter followed his ship almost the whole way to the States. But he had the best of the joke in the end. For he is buying the quarry in chunks these days and transporting the Blarney limestone to U. S. A. and cutting it into ornaments and curios over this side for sale to the multitude intrigued at the idea of having a bit of the eloquent tradition in stone and hoping that the gift of the honeyed mouth may descend upon them with the purchase. So that's Ireland where, in the style of the best of the fairy stories, the rocks are at last turning to gold.

NOTES BY THE WAY

This new trans-Canada air line may do something for Canadian unity. After all, it only takes about twenty hours now to get a complaint from the Pacific coast to Ottawa.—Hamilton Spectator.

There are 722,222 persons in Canada receiving "urban or agricultural aid," according to figures tabled in the Commons by Mr. Rogers, Minister of Labour. "Urban and agricultural aid" means relief for the destitute, so that it may fairly be said that three-quarters of a million Canadians are still destitute. —Ottawa Citizen.

Canada is faced with serious national problems today. Many trends are noticeable that should be regarded with concern. But her present condition is not nearly so serious as that in which Australia found herself seven or eight years ago. Much of Canada's public debt has been refunded without compulsion at an annual saving of many millions of dollars, and heer average interest rate is slightly below Australia's. But the magnitude of Canadian debts, the extent of borrowings and the number of our unemployed all suggest that things are out of balance and that readjustments should be made whereever this is possible without using compulsion. —Toronto Star.

The Canadian wheat crop is reckoned annually in hundreds of millions of bushels. Direct contributions to the grain-growers of the West from the Dominion Treasury total tens of millions of dollars annually. This year the total of the wheat bonus and other aids of the West will run into enormous figures. The total of the wheat bonus alone is estimated by the Minister of Agriculture at $48,000,000—though other estimates place it anywhere between $50,000,000 and $60,000,000. And while these colossal sums of public money are being poured into the West, the Nova Scotia transportation route is starved for grain traffic. Up to last week not a kernel of Canadian wheat came through this channel for export. —Halifax Herald.

Europe no longer allows Europe's wars to be Europe's wars alone. They must be everybody's quarrel. So, General Franco had Moroccans fighting for him in Spain, and it was French native troops from Africa who received the Spanish refugees when they surged across the frontier from Catalonia. Senegalese infantry from the other side of the continent have been despatched to Djibouti to augment the French garrison there. A Sikh policeman was among those killed when Japanese bombs were dropped within the Hong Kong area the other day, and if there is trouble over this incident or over recent outbreaks of terrorism at Shanghai, it is quite likely Sikh and other Indian regiments will be involved. In Palestine, German propaganda has been stirring up the Arabs against the British, and in Syria the Italians are trying to create bad blood between the Arabs and the French. —Vancouver Province.

There is one thing that those in charge of the (Royal) tour should remember. Reporters and photographers on this continent are "up-and-coming" young gentlemen. They believe in getting their news and their pictures. They may show more determination and more vigour in the carrying out of their duties than is the case with the newspaper men in Britain. While they are not disrespectful of distinguished persons, they do not treat them with the same deference that is followed in Britain. To say this is only to state that relations between newspaper men and prominent persons on this continent are usually free and easy. If officials in charge of the tour appreciate this fact, they will understand the enthusiastic, informal attitude of reporters and photographers.—Windsor Star.

The Finns should like us. We are such good customers. We make such bad bargains. Britain takes most of Finland's butter. We buy more and more of the produce of that country. In three years our adverse trade balance with Finland has increased by more than six millions. For the Finns don't buy from us. Indeed, they sell us three time what they purchase from us. Germany is a customer of Finland. But there the story is very different. The Finns buy more from Germany than they sell there. Why should we buy butter from Finland which we could buy in the Empire? Why should we buy their butter with money that Hitler will turn into guns? —London Daily Express.

Two youths of 18 who held up a taxi driver with toy pistols have been committed to the Ontario Reformatory. There may be sentimental people who will think this a hard penalty for such a crime, but that is taking, we think, too light a view of this sort of thing. There have been a number of robberies, or attempted robberies, with toy guns in Ontario during recent months and the courts, property, have been severe with the culprits. A man who uses an imitation revolver in the commission of a crime obviously intends that it shall be mistaken for the real thing, and he cannot complain if the courts take a serious view of his exploit. We may be quite sure, moreover, that the amateur crook who carries a toy today will carry a genuine revolver tomorrow if chance or crime puts it in his way —and every armed criminal is a potential murderer, because it must be assumed he will use his weapon to prevent capture or identification. When Parliament next amends the Criminal Code serious consideration should be give the question of making illegal the public sale of toy revolvers. No small boy's life is going to be ruined because he can't have a gun with which to play bandit, and if these imitations were not available for a few cents some youths might be saved the first and disastrous step in crime. —Ottawa Journal.

The Hungarian government has courage. The drastic suppression of the Hungarian Nazi movement and the jailing of many of its leaders while not a direct defiance of Hitler can hardly be pleasing to him. Austria tried it and the Nazis walked in and took possession of the country. Hungary is in the line of Hitler's march to the east. Sometime he intends to make Hungary a part of Germany. At the moment, however, he has a little too much trouble on his hands. This may strengthen the Hungarian resistance to threats to seizure. —Boston Post.

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.

FARM MACHINERY

Sir,—In my letter replying to Onlooker I made a statement that, while individual profits were less, yet by "mass production the totals would be greater."

I imagine that Mr. Kennedy's reference was to this when he produced the profit increase of one corporation at about $13,000,000 over that of 1936.

While Mr. Kennedy is no doubt absolutely correct in his figures, it does not (though superficially it might appear so) in any degree clash with my argument.

Mr. Kennedy's gave prices within the circuit of his business knowledge. My argument plainly was from the view point of "mass production", from not only the national but the international standpoint in factory sales and operations. My attitude will be found unimpaired.

Mr. friend Mr. Kennedy seemingly has overlooked the influence of the Bennett legislation, and more particularly the results from those preferential trade agreements, their great stimulating influence on exports to the Imperial Commonwealth of Nations, in bringing about this increased production, together with the "increased totals" of profits which I then claimed. It would be interesting if my friend would ferret out the comparative sales and exports of his firm in 1935, with those of succeeding years.

Those trade agreements gave Canadian manufacturers a preference in all British markets over that of other countries. The Bennett policies gave further assistance in cheapening cost of production, to enable this increased export. Hence a greater output with little or no increase in the unit profits of the manufacturer.

Tariff duties have little influence on prices. The greater output of agricultural (and in fact all leading commodities) is from internationally controlled industries. I know from experience that a concern in the United States, selling products much below prices in Canada, places embargoes upon their export to Canada, where they are liable to undersell the auxiliary factories on this side of the border. So that free entry would not reduce Canadian prices.

My main claim is, that it is wholly the operations of the Government that has increased the prices of farm machinery, for which industries are unfairly blamed. Those price increases can be located easily by any studious economist. Let me cite a few.

By the American Trade Treaty U. S. builders have had opened to them the Commonwealth markets, on the same "preferential tariff" as that secured to Canada by the Bennett "Economic Conference." This enables exports of U. S. implements to British countries, displacing the export formerly held by Canada's factories. While imposing no sales tax directly on the finished implement, they impose a tax, increased to 8%, upon machinery and much of the equipment required in these factories. They have increased corporation, income, and other taxes imposed upon industries, salaried officials and artisans, employed in industries. They have compelled by higher cost of living an advanced wage scale and production. As pointed out in my former letter these increases are not confined within the boundaries of the factory. They extend to the mines of iron, copper, lead, nickel, asbestos, coal, zinc and all materials used in construction, the extra cost of which, handed over to the factories, must be added to the costs of the implements.

Additional to these there are the increased taxes of provincial and municipal governments, gasoline, income, transport, succession duties, real and personal property, corporation, and innumerable special relief and other levies. A study and analysis of these, which automatically attaches to commodity costs, will show conclusively that every dollar and every cent of the increased prices of farm implements is accounted for in actual tax increases imposed by Liberal governments since the 1935 election.

Mr. Kennedy's statements of these increases are unassailable. They are fool-proof against any species of attack, but they must be laid at the door of pledge-breaking Liberal taxers, where the whole responsibility lies, without allowing the high priests of the party to load their perfidy and sins upon the industries in the vain hope of beclouding them in the shadows of their political wilderness.

The conclusions above cited are evidenced in the slump of the number of employed, the first fruits of the mutilated Imperial Preference. This lessened employment of artisans means reduced output; reduced output means higher unit costs, in the trail of which in the trend of Liberal exploitation, we may look for further advances in the present high costs of agricultural equipment.

I am, Sir, etc.,
LEWIS P. TANTON.

The Poets' Corner

WATCHING FROM WINTER

The frogs emerge in Winter twice;
The third time it is Spring,
This, like all weatherwise advice,
Is not a certain thing.

When buzzards rise in circling flight,
Spring surely comes to stay,
But I have known, beyond that sight,
Many an icy day.

No habitant of hills will doubt
A sign if it's his own;
When floods have brought the cypress out,
The Winter is outblown.
—Keith Thomas in the New York Sun.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

COD LIVER OIL IN TREATMENT OF OLD SKIN ULCERS

Just why some ulcers on the skin are so indolent or slow in healing is often hard to understand. Sometimes eating more of the foods containing lime or taking lime direct—calcium lactate, gluconate, and a specially prepared chloride—stimulate old ulcers to heal.

Vitamin D as found in cod liver oil has been found effective in healing old or chronic bone inflammations — osteomylitis. The bone is scraped out thoroughly and the cod liver oil fills in the hollow left by the removal of the diseased bone. It was only natural therefore that physicians, particularly skin specialists, should try using cod liver oil in the treatment of old or chronic ulcers of the skin.

Drs. James R. Driver, G. W. Brinkley, and Maurice Sullivan, Cleveland, outline their method in the Urological and Cutaneous (Skin) Review.

"After experimenting with various formulas for application to indolent ulcers this one was found to be satisfactory:

Commercial cod liver oil — 88 percent.
White wax — 12 percent.

The wax prevents the too rapid absorption of the oil in the dressings and when the dressing is removed, it usually clings to the dressing thus making it possible to prevent injuring the granulating or healing surface.

A generous amount of ointment, usually one-fourth inch in thickness, is spread on gauze or muslin, then covered with oiled silk or oiled paper, and bandaged in place. A warm moist chamber about the ulcer is thus produced.

Following the first application a marked activity (ulcer is no longer indolent) is generally set up, resulting in an increased amount of pus and the liquid part of blood. The ulcer soon assumes a ruddy, clear, healthy appearance and new surface skin can be seen growing in from hte margins of the ulcer. When this condition is noted, the dressing need be changed only every four or five days (instead of daily), and extreme care must be used to avoid injury, by wiping with cotton or gauze.

If any of the pus gets on surrounding skin it should be wiped off with soap and water to prevent any skin infection.

Making Our Flesh Creep

(Ottawa Journal)

The gist of what emerged from that tempestuous discussion in the Commons on Tuesday is that Prime Minister King is hurrying Parliament with its work in March because things looked bad in Europe in January.

Fantastic?

Not at all. On Wednseday, March 1, Mr. King, addressing the Commons solemnly, said:

"I think all of us would be well advised to get along with the business of this Parliament as rapidly as we can because we may at some moment be called upon to consider questions larger than any we have discussed thus far. I pray it will not come but who can say it will not in the light of the knowledge that every man has who reads the daily press from day to day or from hour to hour?"

"I pray it will not come ....." That, from the Prime Minister of Canada, sounded serious, to say the least. The inference taken from it, and reasonably, was that despite the growing optimism of European despatches, Mr. King had just received confidential information warranting a grave view of impending happenings. Business, already nervous, was given cause for more nervousness. The psychology of fear increased.

The Journal, at the time, humbly questioned Mr. King's statement. It said:

"If Mr. King possesses confidential information warranting such talk, well and good. But Mr. King, The Journal suggests, possesses no such information, is voicing merely his own thoughts."

And it added:

"People and business should be spared from this 'crack-of-doom' nonsense from leaders in responsible positions."

It now turns out that Mr. King had no serious confidential information before him at all. Mr. King, in fast (on his own admission), was talking about confidential information which he says came to him away back on January 20. He might just as sensibly warn Parliament the way he did warn it) on the basis of things that came to him last September, during Munich.

Mr. King says, as a sort of justification for his "I-pray-it-will-not-come" speech, that:

"During the earlier period it was still doubtful how the civil war in Spain would end."

There was no doubt on Wednesday, March 1, about how the civil war in Spain would end. Catalonia had been conquered for weeks; the President of the Republic had resigned; the end was but a matter of weeks. Indeed, at the very moment when Mr. King was issuing his solemn warning, calculated to frighten Parliament as well as the general public, the whole European situation was immensely better, as he himself now admits:

"I am happy to say that, more particularly in the last day or two, the skies seem to have cleared very considerably."

Mr. King could have made that statement on Wednesday, March 1, just as readily as on Tuesday, March 7. Instead he made a statement which, had it been made by Prime Minister Chamberlain, or any other responsible European statesman, would have frightened the world to death.

CUSTOMER WASN'T RIGHT

SAINT JOHN, N. B.—(CP)—Police arrested a young man who made a practice of giving large C. O. D. orders to grocery stores. When told immediate delivery was impossible he would ask to take a few articles "to tide him over" pending delivery of the others. He was never at the address given.

Merchants and Business Men's Meeting

City Board Rooms
TUESDAY, MARCH 21st
at Eight O'clock Sharp.

SUBJECT
BRIGHTON BRIDGE

A meeting of all city merchants and business men will be held in the City Board Room to discuss The Brighton Bridge Project and better shipping facilities for the people west of North River through to Borden.

Representatives of the farmers community and other interested groups are invited and also Trades and Labor Delegations.

Parliament Representatives are also invited to attend.

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