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Editor and Managing Director, J. R. Burnett.
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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink."

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, FEB. 24, 1949

Favored Prairie Farmers

As an illustration of the Dominion Government's beneficence to Prairie farmers under the P.F.A. Act, a parliamentary return just made reveals that these western agriculturalists will receive about \$12,792,951 in "grocery-and-clothing" money to make up for drought, grasshoppers and floods which hit them in 1948.

Saskatchewan was the hardest hit, with 85 per cent of its \$11,112,671 share to 44,600 farmers going to the western half. They were affected by both drought and grasshoppers. Alberta's drought damage largely was confined to the eastern section with 7,930 farmers benefitting to the extent of \$1,637,306 from the treasury. Only 354 Manitoba farmers will receive P. F. A. Act payments for 1948. They will collect \$43,173, largely because of flood damage.

The only difference between the favored Prairie farmers and the unfavored Maritime fishermen in their respective circumstances, comments an exchange, is that losses are inflicted by the elements in a dissimilar way, in the one instance by drought, floods or by the grasshopper pest, in the other by storm-swept seas. If damage by the elements is considered as compensatory by the federal authorities in the case of Prairie farmers, there is no valid reason why application of a parallel policy of indemnification for losses due to storms should not be extended Maritime fishermen.

Training in Democracy

With new party leaders in Parliament and an election in the offing, the present session promises to be one of the most lively and interesting in many years.

An interesting experiment in democratic action has been instituted in many centres by forming local Hansard Clubs, to follow what Parliament is doing and keep in touch with their M. P.'s on subjects that interest them.

A number of such clubs are operating in different parts of the country already, the oldest one in the Hon. Brooke Claxton's riding in Montreal, with his close cooperation. Meeting at each other's homes in turn, the members also take turns acting as "Hansard reporter", making a brief digest of the main topics taken up in the Commons during the previous fortnight. After this has been read, the club, which includes people of several political persuasions, goes into a lively discussion of the issues, and may end up by writing to the M. P. on its views. If a good two-way contact has been established there may be a reply from the M. P. on a previous letter, to read to the club.

This procedure is recommended to our local political organizations as a first class method of keeping abreast of the times politically.

Federal Aid To Education

The Toronto Globe and Mail supports the plea for Federal grants to education presented to the Dominion Government last week by the Canadian Teachers' Federation, but is not sure that a "straight per pupil grant" offers the best basis for such aid. This, the Toronto paper says is "a moot point."

To a limited degree the grant per pupil would tend to equalize the educational outlay as between Ontario and, say, Prince Edward Island, but it would not bridge the great disparity now existing. Ontario, it might be argued, does not need the Federal money to the same extent as some of the Provinces less favored with industrial productivity.

Federal aid for education is by no means unprecedented, although not on the scale proposed by the Canadian Teachers' Federation. There have been substantial grants for vocational education since 1919, paid by special agreement with the Provinces. At present, the basic grant is \$10,000 a year to each Province, plus \$1,910,000 divided among the Provinces according to their population between fifteen and nineteen years of age. This contribution has to be matched by the Province. A further postwar grant of \$10,000,000 for capital expenditures has also been made. This must be spent before March, 1952. In addition, grants for veterans' training, apprenticeship, youth training, unemployed civilian training, and other purposes are made by the Dominion. Bursaries for needy students in secondary and vocational schools, universities, teacher-training and other educational institutions are also supported by the Federal Government.

These Federal contributions, especially on the university level, amount to many millions annually. The principle of Dominion aid has long been recognized, and might be pushed further with advantage. But it would be unwise for the Federal authority to assume any large part of the educational burden given the Provinces by the British North America Act until the Dominion-Provincial Conference on Finance has been reconvened, and has reached satisfactory and permanent arrangements. With a balanced and democratically accepted allocation of the tax fields to the Dominion, Provinces and municipalities, many of our difficulties would be substantially lessened.

Educational taxation on the local level is at the point of exhaustion. Most Provincial subsidies have been increased, but manifold other demands put a limit to what may be done, especially in the less-favored Provinces. The Canadian Teachers' Federation, and other bodies thinking along the same line, should recognize the fundamental nature of the problem they are raising. It must be dealt with on the fundamental level.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Farmers' Week.

The Legislature resumes

Feast of St. Mathias.

Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Baden Powell activities continue.

Margarine without the colouring of butter will tend to go down in price with a corresponding advantage to the hard pushed housewife.

Charles Grant Blairfinnie Allen, Canadian scientist and man of letters, known as Grant Allen, born this date 1848, his bicentury being celebrated in British literary circles this year. He wrote The Evolution at Large, Evolution of the Idea of God, The Woman Who Did, and numerous other novels.

The matter of delegating government authority and responsibilities to crown companies is clothed in some obscurity. Perhaps as Senator John T. Haig said of running the Bank of Canada, "There's nothing to it", and anybody could run them, but it seems more likely that ability will still be at a premium.

Solon Low (P.C.) M.P. declared in the House that on a recent visit to England he was served with breakfast food which tasted like oatmeal and sand, and that though he had previous experience eating haggis "this was much worse." He was immediately called to order by Deputy Speaker Ross Macdonald, who felt he had a right to resent the reflection on the national dish of his forbears.

Commander Stephen King-Hall, founder of Britain's Hansard Society, is visiting this country in the interest of the Canadian Hansard Society, organized last year. Canadians have not taken to reading Hansard, only some 12,000 copies are printed daily, but with the growth of groups interested in education and public affairs that situation could rapidly change.

The Montreal Gazette reports Mr. George Drew as expressing deep concern over Transport Minister Chevrier's statement that Gander airport must conform with Canadian air policy. The unfortunate result of such a stand will be to prevent planes of other countries from picking up or landing passengers or cargo at that airport. The international traffic of Gander will be one with Maritime pre-confederation shipping.

Agricultural Minister Gardiner notwithstanding, Free Trade by Canada is not a panacea for all our trading drawbacks. There must be similar policies by the other countries too, as he admits. The trouble in 1930, and previously, was Canada was giving access to foreign imports while the U.S.A. and European countries were taxing or prohibiting ours. This is what made Prime Minister Bennett enunciate a policy of "Lasting our way" into foreign markets, leading to the Ottawa Conference, and the subsequent tariffs which prepared the way for Canada's prosperity when the Liberals came into power.

The reference in the Speech from the Throne to "the birth of a Prince who is Heir Apparent" is erroneous. According to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, an Heir Apparent is one "whose right of inheritance is indefeasible: e. g., an eldest or only son." "Indefeasible" is a law term signifying "incapable of being defeated, set aside, or made void." An Heir Presumptive is one "who is next in succession, but whose right is defeasible by the birth of a nearer heir." The last Heir Apparent to the British Throne was the Prince of Wales, now Duke of Windsor. The Princess Elizabeth is Heir Presumptive, and her son Prince Charles is Second-in-line Heir Presumptive.

Hon. Mr. Gardiner claims that protection leads to war. For argument, granted that is so, how are we going to compel highly protectionists to abandon their way without resorting to reprisals? The next war will be fought largely in the air, how can we do so without oil? Control of the oil fields today lies in the hands almost exclusively of Britain, U. S. A., Canada and Russia. Should the Soviet control of the East expand at the rate it is now doing, both Britain and the U. S. A. will be shut out of the Eastern oil supply, and what are these two dominant nations going to do about it—sit idly by and let Russia swoop the pool? Grandiose declarations like those of Mr. Gardiner sound fine in the ears of the unthinking, but it is another story when the enemy is at our door as was the case in 1939 before the Mackenzie King government would grant the R. A. F. permission to train in Canada.

A group of Britain's 1949 babies, though they don't know it yet, will be guinea pigs in what may prove to be one of the world's most important experiments in child care. They will be shadowed from the day nursery until they leave school and every step in their development will be noted and filed. United Kingdom psychologists, education experts, teachers and doctors will follow them in their homes, schools and youth clubs, watching their habits, mental outlook, growth and development. They will study what matters in a child's life, what causes the impressions and creates the problems—what, in fact, happens to the normal child. Their research will form the basis for a report which might well effect child care all over the world. The experts will work at a world training centre for the care of children which has been established at Bloomsbury, London, by the Institute of Child Health and Education. First contact with the children will be made at a residential nursery. Later when the children are sent to local schools, the experts will follow them. A dossier of every child who comes within the survey will be kept. This is the first complete long-term project of its kind in Britain.



OPPOSITION

(Continued from Page 1)

He was surprised that there was no reference in the Speech to the \$30,000,000 Federal health and welfare grants, in which this Province is sharing. He warmly commended the purpose of these grants, and also the attention given to his work by the Provincial Health and Welfare Minister, Mr. Matheson. He referred to his recent visit to Ottawa, where he has sat in at a joint Dominion Provincial meeting on this subject.

Trans-Canada Highway

With regard to the National Highway, he did not think this scheme would materialise until the Dominion election. "If it comes it will come as an election dodge, just the same as there will be a reduction in income taxes before the Federal House rises! That will be their only hope in the election; but it is not going to save them."

He noted from the Public Accounts that the Government obtained \$80,000 from Ottawa for damages incurred in wartime on the Western Road. Part of this road, however, is bad again. He instanced other evidences of deterioration in some sections. Dr. MacMillan commended the building of the Government refrigeration plant, which he attributed to the work of Mr. John P. Connolly, who had also managed Maple Hills and purchased the Beach Grove Inn at a very profitable bargain for the Government. He complained, however, that Mr. Connolly was still being employed at a clerk's wages, after he had been promised a Deputy Ministership.

Dr. MacMillan: "I consider that a man who has done such good work should be properly treated. His reward has not even been the completion of the promise which he made to the Department."

The proper solution at Borden, Dr. MacMillan believed, was to open up that both ferries could operate at the same time. He scored the Government on its failure to include any reference to rural electrification in the Speech from the Throne. What had become of all their ambitious schemes and promises?

Mr. Phillip Matheson: "Gone with the wind." Dr. MacMillan noted that an order in council had been passed a few days ago, extending the high tension line West. How far is it going? he asked.

Premier Jones: "We want to get the elevator and hospital at Alberton working." Dr. MacMillan: "Very well; you and I see eye to eye on that."

The Opposition leader stressed, among other things, the importance of the tourist industry, and commended the loan for construction of tourist cabins.

Newfoundland's Entry

Dr. MacMillan expressed doubt whether Newfoundland's entry into Confederation would benefit this Province. He wondered what added Newfoundland competition would mean to P. E. I. fishermen, who could not find proper markets now. He termed present grants under the Dominion Provincial agreement inadequate, and said there was need of another inter-Provincial conference. He backed the stand of Mr. Drew, Conservative national leader, that it was unconstitutional to change the B. N. A. Act without consulting the Provinces.

He agreed with the Government's policy in joining with other provinces in opposing the freight rates increases. More co-operation between the three Maritime Provinces, he emphasized, was needed to give them a square deal. In referring to international affairs Dr. MacMillan commended Norway for defying the "Russian monster" and deciding to join the proposed North Atlantic Security

CHARGES PREMIER

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but he knew it afterwards, and he had no intention of correcting it. "Instead of the over-expenditure of \$480,000 in my department which he alleged, the accounts showed an increase of \$34,000; and with the information now available in the Public Accounts it appears that the department under-expend in the vicinity of \$20,000."

Full Statistics Needed

Mr. Hughes went on to discuss the negotiation of the tax agreement at Ottawa, in which he took a prominent part as Provincial Treasurer. The expenditure of some five or six hundred dollars in travelling expenses during May to December, 1946, resulted in an increase of \$200,000 to the Province last year, and in the current year of over \$700,000, he said. He strongly emphasized the need of getting proper statistics ready for the next Ottawa conference, before the present agreement expires.

He endorsed the Premier's statement that the Quebec and Ontario Premiers had been responsible for "ditching" the last conference before its work was completed.

He cited figures to show the comparatively low per capita earnings in this Province, and the impossibility of trying to keep up with the wealthier Provinces in education, health and other services.

The essential need, he emphasized, was to evolve some method of tax assessment bearing closer relation to per capita income in each Province.

The Greatest Co-Operative

(Canadian Life Insurance Officers Association)

Life insurance companies are sometimes looked upon as the strongholds of the accumulations of the rich. Such a view completely overlooks the co-operative nature of life insurance.

The funds of the life insurance companies are made up of the savings of thrifty persons in every walk of life who represent a complete cross-section of the entire nation.

These savings provide a backlog, in many cases the only backlog, of protection and security for the individual policyholder and his dependents.

Basically, life insurance is the banding together of large numbers of people who are thus able to protect themselves against the uncertainties of life—an end which they could not ordinarily accomplish individually.

DOUBLE GOLDEN WEDDING

SAN GABRIEL, Calif., Feb. 21 (AP) — Fifty years ago there was a double wedding in Vinton, Iowa.

Verne Spence took for his bride Nettie Culp, Theodore Culp, brother of Nettie, was married to Ida May, close friend of both families. The two couples—now Californians—had a double golden wedding celebration yesterday. Verne, 78, and Nettie, 88, live in Bassett, Theodore, 73, and Ida, 74, live nearby at San Gabriel.

FLINT, Wales (CP) — Flintshire county council is to give \$1,080 (\$4,220) toward the cost of compiling a new Welsh biographical dictionary.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

TREATMENT OF "WITNESSES"

Sir—"Concerned" letter in yesterday's issue of The Guardian interested me very much, and since "Concerned", according to his own admission, knows little about The Jehovah's Witnesses' I would like to pass on this information.

I have before me a copy of The Montreal Standard. In it are pictures taken at the time of the Marian Congress held at Ottawa in 1947. In those pictures appear a group of individuals carrying signs. They may be civil people. They may not be forcing anyone to accept their beliefs. But they are Jehovah's Witnesses and the signs they are carrying very clearly indicate their purpose. One of their leaders also hoped it would rain, and thus spoil the outdoor ceremonies that were to be held. Perhaps "Concerned" may realize that that is what he termed a Modern Light Brigade band in mind when they mobbed the out of Edmundston, N. B.

I am, Sir, etc. MERONICA J. Georgetown, Feb. 22.

The Poet's Corner

GO NOT TOO NEAR

Go not too near a house of rose, The deprivation of a breeze Or inundation of a dew Alarm its walls away;

Nor try to tie the butterfly; Nor climb the bars of ecstasy; In insecurity to lie Is joy's insuring quality.

—Emily Dickinson.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

EARLY MALPEQUE

In 1728 the first French settlement at Malpeque was made, when John Lambert and Charles and Peter Arsenault with their families came from Acadia to build new homes for themselves in the forest that extended to the very water's edge. Probably the earliest description of this locality was penned by Picton of Marselles, Secretary to the Governor of Louisiana, as in 1752 he sailed around the island to report on its harbours and navigable rivers. The following translation is from his journal.

"From Rasico (Rustico) we set sail for Malpeque where we arrived that evening, after having enjoyed a prospect of a charming coast. But we were greatly incommoded with margignons or gnats, whose stings are more pungent here than in any other part of the country. They bite with such venom and fury that persons not accustomed to their insalubrious are apt to lose all patience. The harbor of Malpeque is very convenient for the cod-fishery—nature having formed several small islands as well as straits adapted for drying, and besides there is a brisk sharp air proper for the purpose. The lands adjacent to the harbour of Malpeque are the best of the whole island of St. John. The banks of the rivers are covered with all sorts of beautiful trees. Between this and the harbour of Cashecampere is a large grove of cedars about three leagues in circumference. The white cedar distills a kind of incense, but bears

PREMIER REVIEWS

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of the people up there." He quoted items from Hansard in this connection.

Beating The Railways

Commenting on the application for railway freight rate increases, the Premier said the dissenting Provinces were making a strong impression. "I think we are beating them right now," he said. "We have held up increases already granted and I do not think the railroads will be allowed to charge the exorbitant rates they have been asking for."

In reply to Opposition criticism with regard to the omission of the famous speech in the Throne Speech, the Premier said the Government was "keeping pretty close to the grass roots and we believe in helping the farmers with their marketing and other problems at all times. We Liberals have always done that and it is taken for granted."

Junior Farmers

While commending the Junior Farmers' movement, Premier Jones sounded a warning with regard to the necessary education and background required for leadership. "If these young men are trying to be leaders while they may be only in the sixth or seventh grades in school, I am afraid they will be disappointed," he said. "They should be well educated before they begin to lead people. Education is an extremely important thing, especially in rural communities."

The Premier emphasized the importance of the short courses now being conducted by the Provincial Department of Education. It was planned to try out correspondence courses under group leadership in this connection. There is a very able body of men at the Experimental Farm, and he believed they could develop a first class course of education.

"We hope to develop an educational textbook of our own, and that our farmers will become the best educated farmers in Canada," he said.

With regard to payments from Ottawa, Premier Jones advised the Opposition to "wait and see if we are not getting \$3,000,000 this year." He promised that an interim report would be tabled within a few days. He went on to cite Federal payments in the way of children's allowances, old age pensions, health, etc.

"People should remember, however," the Premier warned, "that all money paid out by Governments must come out of their own pockets; and it is the ultimate consumers and not the big corporations that pay in the end."

Newfoundland Trade

The Premier pictured a revival of the oldtime schooner traffic between Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, now that the latter Province has joined up with the Dominion. "They will want our farm products in increasing quantities as they begin to handle more money," he predicted.

He hoped to see a ferry service start very shortly, running at least weekly to and from Corner Brook, in addition to schooner traffic. Boats with farm produce from this Province could return from Newfoundland loaded with lime, which could be ground for agricultural use.

He was told that live lobsters could be sent here from Newfoundland, placed in pounds in Prince Edward Island and shipped to Boston.

Ferry Services

Dealing with the Borden ferry service, he said it was hoped to have a jetty built for an auxiliary boat, in addition to the existing piers. Nearly 5,000 trucks were ferried last year, and this number might be increased to 6,000. Last year at Wood Islands 6,000 trucks were ferried and he ventured to predict that this traffic could be doubled almost immediately if the boats had sufficient capacity.

"I am told we will have no better boats there this summer, though the time is at hand when we will have to undertake building better boats which will have a carrying capacity of 50 cars," the Premier said. "Something will have to be done. The Government is aware of the situation and we are pushing the matter as well as we can."

Rural Electrification

The Government, Premier Jones maintained, was making every effort to speed up rural electrification. A prospect of a two million dollars is available now. It is proposed to extend the high power tension line from Mt. Pleasant along the Western Road until it reaches Alberton at least. Then the company at Alberton can buy electricity from the Government, which will be metered along the road. The Government can get the cost of maintenance from the line. A just price will be determined by the Utilities Board.

The Premier referred to the fire at the Otter plant, in which the Government had a previous investment of \$4,400. "We went in to protect our investment and in less than three days we had electricity on the wires again and the plant in operation by a committee of citizens who handled the project very intelligently. I would hope that that committee can continue to handle it, and buy their electricity at cost off the main line."

"With the Maritime Electric Company on the job, I claim that not as much could have been done if the Government had taken over the whole electric power problem in this Province," the Premier said. "Until recently at least, goods no fruit like the cedar of Mount Lebanon. The Acadia women are accustomed to show their incense which preserves their teeth and makes them exceedingly white."

TO HONOR MRS. ROOSEVELT

WINNIPEG, Feb. 23 (CP)—An honorary degree of doctor of laws will be conferred upon Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt by the University of Manitoba March 1. It was announced today. Mrs. Roosevelt visited Winnipeg in the course of her western lecture tour.

Fishermen's Loans

Referring to Government loans for tourist promotion purposes, the Premier said the difficulty had been to obtain adequate security. "I am almost afraid that we have gone too far in this direction," he added. When more of the money is repaid, it can be loaned again, establishing a revolving fund for this purpose.

There was, he said, a misconception with regard to the Dominion - Provincial scheme of constructing potato warehouses. "Up till now the Provincial Government has paid the whole cost," the Premier said. "The Dominion Government has paid nothing because, although they signed the contract, they do not want to go ahead with it at present. I want to assure the House that under the present contracts we will get out of it all right, because the collections are coming in. The warehouses are a success, and the people are paying the small charges which eventually will finance the scheme. I think that probably the Dominion Government will come in again, under a modified contract."

Town Planning Zones

A big problem at present, he continued, is adequate inspection of urban planning zones. "We have on the outskirts of Charlottetown 5,000 or 6,000 people who won't let the city council, at least, stay outside. These people should be induced, either to join in or incorporate themselves. I think the Government should assist them, or else make it costly to them if they don't incorporate. They need sewerage and water. It is not good for the general health of the people to have them remain as they are. The town is grown up in a promiscuous manner."

In this connection he referred to the appointment of a sanitation engineer, Mr. Sharpe, who was well qualified for his work.

Education

Dealing with education, the Premier said that while progress was being made he was not at all satisfied, when comparing the situation with other Provinces. In Alberta they have larger units under one group of trustees, and even in New Brunswick they are building a half-million dollar school, with the government contributing one-third the money, the rest being raised by a special tax. "The first thing we know New Brunswick will be an educated place and we will be a bunch of Seventh or Eighth graders," he declared.

The solution was in larger school units, combined under single trustees boards. A first step in this direction was the appointment of a valuation board. He hoped the legislation drafted in connection with this matter would meet with approval.

It is hoped to keep the Vocational School going day and night. The classes are now largely attended, and it is intended to expand the agricultural courses at least. In his conclusion, the Premier said, "Something will have to be done. The Government is aware of the situation and we are pushing the matter as well as we can."

The Age-Old Story

The Lord upholdeth all that he doeth and releteth up all those that he bowed down.

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