

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1947

Electrification Report

The full text of the report submitted by Mr. T. H. Hogg, an Ontario consulting engineer, to the Provincial Government on the subject of a Province-wide scheme of electrification appears in today's issue, and will doubtless be read with keen interest. Substantially, the report is in line with previous recommendations, notably those of the Advisory Reconstruction Committee which were tabled at the 1946 session of the Legislature.

Mr. Hogg comes out more pointedly in favor of the Government taking over the existing power plants either by expropriation or by negotiation, but there is general agreement as to the need of a Provincial Commission for the generation and distribution of electrical power and energy. This is regarded as essential in maintaining uniform rates and standards of service throughout rural areas.

The personnel of the proposed Power Commission is not discussed by Mr. Hogg, but in the Advisory Committee's report it is suggested that the Commission be three in number; that it be directly responsible to the Government under a chairman who is a member of the Government; that the other Commissioners be appointed on a strictly non-partisan basis, one having the qualifications of a competent professional engineer, the other being "particularly interested in and identified with the welfare of rural communities."

In addition to the powers already granted under the Electrical Power Act, the Committee recommended that the Power Commission be authorized to "canvass the whole field of available engineers and select for employment the most competent engineer available," this official to be appointed at first for a probationary period of one year and subsequently by contract for a period not exceeding five years.

The question of financing is all-important in a scheme of this kind. Mr. Hogg assumes that it will be an entirely Provincial undertaking, but this should not be so. Mr. J. R. MacNeil, M.P., in his recent address before the Charlottetown Board of Trade, included rural electrification for Prince Edward Island in his broader scheme of Maritime rehabilitation for which we were entitled to expect assistance from the Dominion Government.

Rural electrification was a plank in both major party platforms at the 1943 general election. It is therefore not a political issue. The criticism has been with regard to the Government's delay in formulating a policy in this matter.

Other Days

Every reader of Dickens remembers how Nicholas Nickleby, wandering through the world, took a job as assistant to a Yorkshire schoolmaster; how he saw an act of tyranny, of which he strongly disapproved; how he cried out "Stop!" in a voice that made the rafters ring and how he thrashed the brutal schoolmaster within an inch of his life, and then went his way.

If a modern philanthropist came to Dothery Hall he would petition the Government to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into Mr. Squeers. The Royal Commission would report that many things had happened which were certainly most regrettable; that Mr. Squeers was the victim of a bad system; that Mrs. Squeers was also the victim of a bad system; but that the man who sold Squeers' cane had really acted with great indiscretion and ought to be spoken to kindly.

Very different were the methods of "our fathers"! No doubt they were often narrow and often visionary. No doubt they often looked at a political formula when they should have looked at an elemental fact. No doubt, in short, they were all very wrong; and no doubt we are the people and wisdom shall die with us. But when they saw something which in their eyes really violated their morality, such as it was, then they did not cry "Educate." They did not cry "Improve." Like Nicholas Nickleby they cried "Stop!" And it did stop.

Ex-Servicemen's Kits

More than 40,000 items of kit and personal belongings stored in Britain by Canadian servicemen before they went into action, have been shipped to Canada and returned to their rightful owners, military authorities said this week. Distribution of the articles has been carried out by the Kit Disposal Section of Army Records at AHQ in Ottawa. In many cases, it was learned, considerable difficulty was experienced in locating the owners. This was due to the fact that many ex-servicemen had moved

several times since they were discharged and could not longer be reached at the address they gave on leaving the Army. Personnel of the Kit Disposal Section got around this difficulty by working through DVA and other existing records. Usually letters were sent to the people concerned, advising them of the arrival of their kit in Canada, before steps were taken to mail or express their belongings to them. Although almost everything received has been returned to the servicemen to whom it belonged, another small shipment has just arrived and is now being sorted and rerouted as quickly as possible. This new shipment is made up almost entirely of small parcels stored with British authorities by Canadian Army officers loaned to British units. The bulk of the 40,000 parcels returned since the first shipment reached Canada in the summer of 1945 was returned to the owners unopened. Only in cases where positive means of identification was lacking were any of the parcels opened.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Canada's balance of trade with the U. S. is not so unfavorable as it was a few months ago, but we are still buying far more from our Southern neighbour than she is buying from us.

Studies undertaken at Harvard University indicate that hearing aids, unlike glasses, do not have to be fitted. An ideal hearing aid will suit almost anyone without individual adjustment.

Paving the way for his choice as Liberal leader, External Minister St. Laurent will act as Prime Minister and Leader of the House during the absence in London and Holland of the veteran Mr. Mackenzie King.

It is unusual for Government departments to send representatives to seek appointees for government positions, but this is happening today in connection with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and of Indian Affairs.

St. Dunstan's Credit Union, which has just held its annual meeting, is one of the most flourishing financial institutions in the Province, another outstanding example of what may be attained by cooperation and wise leadership.

Reports indicate that decisions reached at the Geneva Tariff Conference will mean the end of imperial preferences as they were established at Ottawa. Changes in tariff rates of the countries involved will not take place until the end of the year.

American shipping men expect the present 25 millions of tons of shipping under the American flag to be reduced in two years to less than 11 million tons. Vice-Admiral William W. Smith is distressed that almost all building now is being done outside the United States.

The Prime Minister assures us he "does not know the first thing about helmets or babies." The first may be perfectly true, as no one would accuse him of admiring ladies' legs in passing, but, as to babies, who has kissed more or chucked them under the chin at election than this veteran politician?

In Italy the Communists have adopted one of the methods of fascism to promote "spontaneous" demonstrations. This is the "postcard" system. Each worker who is to take part receives a postcard instructing him to be at the required place, where the postcard is taken from him by the organizers.

Daniel Webster, American statesman and orator, died this date 1852; while Secretary of State he negotiated the Ashburton Treaty which settled the boundary between Canada and the State of Maine; he led the political fight which prevented individual states having the right to nullify or set aside any decree of Congress.

The Mayor of Whitty, Ont., is not to allow the Federal Government to put anything over him in the way of increased taxation, and so has returned to the town clerk his \$500 yearly salary. "I am not going to take money from the ratepayers of Whitty to pay back to the Government in income tax," Mayor Davidson said. "It can be used to better advantage in another department."

The sum of \$24,144.31 in retroactive pensions was obtained for veterans in the month of September by the Canadian Legion according to a report issued by Chief Pensions Officer Richard Hale. A grand total of 112 claims to pension were won which means that these veterans in addition to receiving their retroactive pensions will get a monthly income for life besides free hospitalization for their pensionable ailments.

The over-all Maritime employment situation has improved considerably over this time last year. R. P. Hartley, regional superintendent of the Unemployment Insurance Commission told district managers at a meeting in Halifax. Of the Maritimes' 450,000 potential working force, 13,323 now were registered as looking for work—8,000 less than one year ago. Reports of district managers showed that Halifax, Sydney and New Glasgow accounted for nearly half of Nova Scotia's 9,294 unemployed, while Saint John and Moncton jobless comprised five-sixths of the 3,357 seeking work in New Brunswick.

A strong sellers' market for passenger cars is likely to continue for two and possibly three years, is the opinion of Mr. J. R. Davis, director of sales and advertising for Ford Motor Company. Even more families plan the purchase of new cars in 1947 than in 1946, he claims, and the average annual replacement demand for cars will be higher than in the pre-war years. The average disposable income after necessities are bought is 67 per cent above that of 1941, and this fact accounts for the continued demand for new cars, he adds.

Notes By The Way

Britain's pedigree livestock export trade is being maintained and, indeed, expanded, owing to the persistency of overseas buyers who recognize the excellence of United Kingdom stock, and whose presence has always been welcomed at Britain's agricultural shows. The export of livestock, including the dollar-producing branch of Britain's national industry, and such exports are not largely confined to thoroughbred horses and beef cattle as in the past, but range over the whole field of livestock breeds. —Montreal Star.

Canadians, by all the statistics from the most authoritative source, the Bank of Canada, are certainly in the money, more than ever in the fiscal history of this Dominion. A report from the nationally operated bank reveals that individual savings of Canadians are higher on the average than ever before. Although exact figures are not available, it is estimated that the figure is near \$7,600,000,000. Savings deposits are currently running at \$3,600,000,000 in government bonds and savings deposits, or approximately \$850 for each Canadian. Savin's averaged approximately \$560 per person in 1937 and \$297 in 1939. —Sydney Post-Record.

With a threatened shortage of fuel this winter because of an insufficient number of freight cars to get it here, a checkup of your boiler now by someone qualified means a big saving. Installing steam windows and plugging up openings around doors and windows, as well as replacing insulation on the pipes, will also help keep down the cost. But the most important job is that boiler check-up to make sure that there will not be any waste there. By doing this now it may mean more comfortable living later on, and a little less expensive, too. —Boston Post.

Some people are fond of telling us that a shorter work week doesn't mean a big saving. Installing steam windows and plugging up openings around doors and windows, as well as replacing insulation on the pipes, will also help keep down the cost. But the most important job is that boiler check-up to make sure that there will not be any waste there. By doing this now it may mean more comfortable living later on, and a little less expensive, too. —Boston Post.

Are we entering a phase of migratory beekeeping in Ontario, asks Prof. G. F. Townsend, head of the Department of Agriculture, O. A. College. This is a question which many beekeepers are asking themselves. In California and many other states bees are moved thousands of miles a year to follow the ripening of honey crops. Several thousand colonies, many from Waterloo county, journeyed north by truck this summer. It is expected that in the neighborhood of 10,000 colonies will be moved in the Spring of 1948. At the present time it appears to be more profitable to winter the bees in Southern Ontario, taking them north each Spring. Some of those moving closer during July and then move to the burned-over areas for fireweed during August. —Ontario Agricultural College News.

In Boston, the painters' union prohibits the use of brushes more than four inches wide. Why? Here's the answer by Ernest A. Jolley, secretary-treasurer of the city's Building and Construction Trades Council. He says: "If a larger size were used it would not be physically possible for the workman to push a brush back and forth. But out west where men must be stronger, the Los Angeles union allows a brush 6 1/2 inches wide to be used on most surfaces. So far there have been no reports of painters' strikes from exhaustion. —Wall Street Journal.

Squatters have taken over the living quarters of the American embassy in Warsaw and the ambassador is currently attempting to drive them out by keeping four powerful radios going night and day. Presumably he has been ordered for his purpose a product far inferior to our own. A judicious selection of American programs, neatly balanced among swing bands, soap operas and comedians, could certainly be depended upon to drive the most truculent squatter out of a building, if not out of the country. Our only objection to the ambassador's course of action lies in his indifference during these days of American housing shortages. American are quick to learn, they have unlimited access to radios and unlimited friends who need a program. It is a diplomatic precedent, to turn radios against each other, the whole fabric of American civilization might well be burst asunder in cacophonous disaster. —New York Herald Tribune.

"Wonderful Spirit" DARRINGTON, DURHAM, England. —(CP) — A 10-minute morning service held daily in a Lutheran church here for the last 25 years, helps start the day off in a "wonderful spirit," says R. Hodgkin, the firm's 70-year-old head.

Negative Policy Fails At The Polls

(Montreal Gazette) York-Sunbury's emphatic rebuff of Lt.-Gen. Ernest Sanson in favor of Brig. Milton Gregg, Liberal Minister of Fisheries, will dismay Progressive Conservatives throughout the Dominion. There is full reason for disquietude. Not only has the Liberal candidate won by one of the handiest pluralities in a seat traditionally Conservative, this defeat follows so closely on the shattering failure at Halifax that it must arouse queries if no doubts in the minds of all rank-and-file Progressive Conservatives.

There is no doubt but that the drastic degree of Liberal success may correctly be attributed to the extremely high efficiency of Premier John McNeill's provincial machine. But that explanation, true though it may be, is not of itself sufficient excuse. Nor can it be taken adequately to excuse the lack of significant issues upon which to arouse public opinion; or the failure to create such a issue.

Major is the whole explanation the glittering bribe offered the riding in the flattering form of a cabinet representative, whilst the opposition could only agree to oppose; and reap for York-Sunbury the Spartan fare that is the best that could then be expected from Government bounty in such circumstances.

Each one of these factors contributed its share to the crushing Progressive Conservative failure. But neither separately nor collectively do they adequately excuse the extent of that rout. The explanation is far simpler. The York-Sunbury election was not lost election day. Gen. Sanson was vanquished in Ottawa months before when his own party settled on the strategy to be followed during the election. That a party whose whole faith is based on a candidate should adopt a negative policy election strategy is of itself defeatism. There could be no other result than that occurred. Progressive Conservatives is positive. It is an abandonment of these basic watchwords of its program it automatically forfeits its most powerful claims to allegiance.

Of purely organizational activities within the constituency during the election period there can be no possible criticism. A fine strenuous fight was fought without thought of a general election victory. But it must be noted that the Progressive Conservative organization had to be improvised for the occasion. Almost no one was adherent to the mechanics of vote-catching, remained from the General Election two years ago. The Liberal Organization, on the other hand met the by-election with the cleanliness in emergency of the veterans they are, and with the team spirit of permanent association.

In any event no organization, however devoted or inspired can wholly compensate for the total absence of consistency in high policy. The lesson is obvious. Unfortunately it has been taught before with equal brutality; and with equal lack of impression. There is a quality of the Bourne in Progressive Conservative policy-making that will not encourage the loyal adherent to hope for success at the polls. For York-Sunbury, correctly assessed, the mechanics of the party failed; and the result was inevitable.

Feed Grains

(From Alexander Hamilton Institute) The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports that livestock producers are likely to experience another tight situation in feed grains during the 1947-48 season. Cold weather during the planting season, and hot dry weather during the growing season has resulted in a shortage of feed grains, particularly oats and barley.

In the case of oats, only the acreage planted in 1947 was smaller than in 1946, but the yield per acre is expected to be smaller. The prospect is that oats production this year will not exceed 291,000,000 bushels as against a 1946 yield of 400,000,000 bushels. In the case of barley, the acreage planted this year was 1,000,000 acres larger than that planted last year, but this increase will be more than offset by a reduction in the yield per acre. The barley crop is not expected to be more than 154,600,000 bushels, or 8,300,000 below last year's output.

The yield of mixed feed grains will undoubtedly fall below that of last year, since the acreage planted was 25 per cent below that of 1946. No estimate of the yield of mixed feed grains has been made but it is apparent that, in addition to a smaller acreage, the crop has suffered from unfavorable weather. The prospective decrease in the feed-grain crops will be aggravated by reduced carryovers of old grain. At the end of July, stocks of oats amounted to 68,000,000 bushels, or 10,000,000 bushels less than a year ago. Barley stocks totalled 29,000,000 bushels or 1,000,000 bushels below last year's stocks. The prospect of substituting wheat as a feed grain this year are not good. The reduced Canadian wheat crop and the world's great need for wheat require that all wheat be conserved for food purposes. The only bright spot in the feed grain situation is the expectation of larger yields of hay, clover and alfalfa.

FAST-ACTING ASPIRIN FOR HEADACHE. To make sure you're getting... "Wonderful Spirit" DARRINGTON, DURHAM, England. —(CP) — A 10-minute morning service held daily in a Lutheran church here for the last 25 years, helps start the day off in a "wonderful spirit," says R. Hodgkin, the firm's 70-year-old head.

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Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.) ROLLO'S VISITATION During the wars between France and England, previous to 1758, Isle St. Jean had happily escaped any hostile visitation; but after the final capture of Louisbourg and the sea seemed covered with white sails; and they counted 300 in all. Descending on the Island, gathering all the small craft that had been present at the siege of Louisbourg, and some armed vessels with a considerable force under Lord Rojjo, they came round Isle Royale, and entered the Gulf; presenting an imposing sight as they neared Rollo Bay. To the terrified settlers the sea seemed covered with white sails; and they counted 300 in all. But most of them were small crafts, for every boat from Nantucket was impressed into the English service at the siege just closed. As they prepared to land the Acadians gathered their families and most valuable effects, and fled by trails to St. Peters, thence to the "Capes of Savage Harbour," as tradition gives it. Here a council was held; and when the booming of cannon at Fort La Jolie told them that it was invested, and also scouts brought in word that the enemy were being guided along the trail by "Webster" (a name not in favor with them afterwards) they decided to bury their valuables. Their traditions also say that they, at this time, buried the church vessels and other valuables in a small brass casket somewhere in the vicinity of the church on the Hillsborough. When they surrendered they were required to take the oath of allegiance to the British Crown, which many of them did not understand — thinking it contained something hostile to their religious belief. Today there is not a French name among the settlers of Hillsborough, Pisiquid, Tracadie, French Village, St. Peter's or vicinity. I believe I have the key to the cause of a general exodus of the Acadians from these parts. No doubt the proximity of a British garrison, at Port La Jolie, induced them to depart to more secluded parts of the Island. They certainly disappeared within three or four years after the change of masters; for the new settlers, coming in fourteen years after the cession of the Island to Britain, found a general exodus of trees, as well as a man, covering the old French clearings along the Hillsborough River. — From an article by the late Prof. John Caven.

Wages Rose Slaughtering Declined (The Scene-From St. Lawrence Park) While we were studying the annual report of a principal packing firm, we found some interesting figures and opinions about prices, wages, production and markets. The report (March, 1947) says that "in United States and Canada, purchasing power, — and consequently domestic demands for foods, — is at an all-time high," but it goes on to say that, "in the face of the record demand (export plus domestic) production of livestock in United States and Canada exceeds of oats amounted to 10,000,000 bushels less than a year ago. Barley stocks totalled 29,000,000 bushels or 1,000,000 bushels below last year's stocks. The prospect of substituting wheat as a feed grain this year are not good. The reduced Canadian wheat crop and the world's great need for wheat require that all wheat be conserved for food purposes. The only bright spot in the feed grain situation is the expectation of larger yields of hay, clover and alfalfa.

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