# THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)
Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa.
President, Ian A. Burnett; Vice-President, Wm. R. Burnett; Secy.-Treas., G. M. Burnett; Editor and Managing Director, J. R. Burnett; Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1947


## British Columbia's Budget

British Columbia's huge new budget indicates pretty clearly why that Province stood out so firmly for the highest possible grants of Federal money before "renting" its income tax to the Dominion. It needed all the money it could get.

Hon. Herbert Anscomb, the finance minister, asks the Provincial Legislature to appropriate the record sum of $58,781,334 for provincial services. A year ago the British Columbia appropriations totalled $42,089,508 but expenditures for the year ran to about $50 millions.

British Columbia now contains a million people; it is expanding in all directions, its highway system and public institutions are in urgent need of repair and extension, the continued influx of new residents creates new costs for the treasury. Nevertheless, the British Columbia taxpayer will not be cheered to find that, at a time of undreamed-of revenues, his taxes are not reduced; they are actually increased, since the Government has raised motor license fees and proposes to levy the wartime gasoline tax which the Dominion is abandoning.

But the more serious fact which the taxpayers must consider is the future maintenance of such a scale of expenditure as Mr. Anscomb now proposes. A slight drop in business activity, a reduced revenue from natural resources like timber, a small decrease in liquor sales would turn Mr. Anscomb's present estimated surplus of $107,000 into a staggering deficit. He is budgeting, in short, on the assumption that an unprecedented boom will continue.

Mr. Anscomb seems aware of that and a note of alarm is visible in his speech when he says that the "elasticity" of the public purse "is dependent not only on the willingness but the ability of the taxpayers to fill it and expand it." The willingness may remain. The ability may not.

This is a sad example to other Provinces, who may imagine that their troubles are over after having made a dicker at Ottawa on tax payments.

## Boost In Butter Prices

Butter is going to increase in price on May 1. That much is certain as a result of the Government's decision, revealed when the main estimates were tabled, to discontinue the subsidy. How much the increase will be remains to be seen but, according to the *Ottawa Journal*, it will be at least eight and a half cents, the aomunt which the Government now pays every time a consumer purchases a pound of butter. Present indications are that the increase will be considerably more than that.

This relatively large increase is bound to cause criticism, and is certain to be partly misunderstood. It will be misunderstood as far as that part of the increase resulting from withdrawal of the subsidy is concerned. Despite the fact subsidies have been paid on foodstuffs in Canada for five years, to the extent of several hundred millions of dollars from the taxpayers' money, the public at large still does not understand this fact. Most housewives fail to realize that every time they pay 44 cents for a pound of butter the Government has been handing over eight and a half cents to make the production of butter possible.

But the increase on May 1 is almost certainly going to be more than eight and a half cents to the consumer. Farm organizations, on behalf of cream producers for butter, for some time have been demanding a higher price for cream. They claim that farmers producing cream for butter are not getting cost-of-production or anything like what those farmers who produce milk for the fluid trade are getting. There is better than one dollar a hundredweight difference between the two types of milk. They are asking for a price which would result in something very near 65 cents a pound butter.

Present indications are they are not likely to realize this price, but that they will get some relief in view of rising costs. What is likely to happen is that the same time that the subsidy comes off the ceiling price on butter will be advanced. However flush production of butter comes in June, and it is expected that shortly after advances take place butter prices will find a more equitable level. It is altogether possible that butter may be 58 to 60 cents on May 1, settle to 55 to 57 cents for the remainder of the Summer.

## The Barley Bonus

It was reported from Ottawa that the Cabinet will shortly announce a bonus of $5 per acre on land sown to barley in the West this year. Such an announcement would be in keeping with the recommendation made by the Dominion-Provincial Conference on production last December and by the Federation of Agriculture more recently.

The bonus would cost the treasury from $35 to $40 millions. It has been defended on the ground that we are committed to provide large exports of bacon for the United Kingdom and that without additional supplies of feed the production cannot be achieved.

Such a bonus, however, would have obvious demerits. It would involve the treasury in an additional subsidy at a time when the declared policy is to get out of such expenditures. But if the need justifies a reversal of the policy there would be the further and fundamental objection that a subsidy on barley acreage is not the direct and effective way of attaining the desired result. If the Government wants to increase bacon output and considers a subsidy necessary, then the clear and proper course is to grant a subsidy on hogs.

In recent years, the policy of the Dominion, as shown in the subsidy on freight rates from the Prairies to the Eastern Provinces, has been to discourage diversified farming in the West and encourage hog production in the East. The result is apparent in the declining hog population of the western provinces and the increasing dependence of eastern hog raisers upon western feed.

This policy may well have political advantages both ways. The Eastern farmer wants cheap feed; the Western farmer, no doubt, prefers to grow cereals if the cash return from them makes it unattractive for him to raise hogs. But wise policy would encourage diversity in western agriculture. To be dependent largely upon cereals makes the most vulnerable kind of an agricultural economy.

## — EDITORIAL NOTES —

Regional high school movement is now active, and soon it may be a question of competition between districts for the Government's favour in this respect.

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Dr. Gus Macdonald has been again chosen as one of the candidates for First King's, and he has as a colleague the grandson of the Hon. John MacLean with whom he first entered the political arena.

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We have a modern illustration of Bacon's phrase, "if the mountain will not go to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain," in the discussion at Trinity Church's men's meeting on civic affairs. Councillors, ex-councillors, ex-and prospective mayors, all endeavoured to enlighten the mountain on what was being done, or not done, on its behalf at the City Council, and a great deal of light was shed on this aspect of public affairs.

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A correspondent writes: "The news from the Royal Commission on Freight Rates is not encouraging. If the blanket increase goes into effect the Maritimes and particularly P. E. I. will be in the doldrums of permanent depression. If the present rate concessions at the very least are not retained it will be quite impossible for us to ship anything to the rest of Canada and as we are controlled by Canada's tariff policy there is little likelihood of developing a sufficient export trade. As I see it a uniform increase in freight rates will be the coup de grace for the Island except as a summer resort to which prosperous Canadians can go to get away from it all."

* * * *

This is from Canadian Press Ottawa correspondent: Speaker Gaspard Fauteux, who has been pressed by members to reconsider his decision that the Commons Chamber has no need for loudspeakers, pointed out to them that they are, indeed, able to do without them. Dr Fauteux rose during a hub-bub of conversation that was drowning out W. Chester S. McLure (PC-Queen's), speaking in the Throne Speech debate, to ask members to "moderate" their voices and observe: "I note with interest that honorable members can carry on conversations and listen to speakers at the same time. I am wondering if it is after all so necessary to have loudspeakers."

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Representatives of nine provincial teachers' associations met in Montreal as the board of directors of the Canadian Teachers' Federation. They were: Wayne Hall, Quebec representative; Gerald Tingley, Nova Scotia; Miss Hilda Kinney, Manitoba; Ernest Crosthwaite, Saskatchewan; Dr. C. N. Crutchfield, Shawinigan Falls, Que., secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Alice McLeod, Shawinigan Falls, assistant to the secretary; Dr. Otto Miller, Fredericton, N. B., past president; Miss Ethel Coppinger, of Saskatoon, president of the C. T. F.; David C. Munroe, Ormstown, Que., vice-president; E. C. Ansley, Alberta; Miss Bernice MacNaughton, New Brunswick; Rev. B. W. Harrigan, Ontario; J. A. S. Williams, Prince Edward Island; C. J. Oates, British Columbia.

* * * *

Charles, 2nd Earl Grey, and Viscount Howick, born this date 1761; the most radical and socialistic aristocrat of his day or any day; before succeeding to the peerage, he took part in the impeachment of Warren Hastings, moved Pitt's impeachment, and protested against his policy by seceding from the House in 1797; later, in 1807, he became Foreign Secretary in Fox's coalition government, known as "All the Talents" ministry; after succeeding to the earldom, he carried the Act in the House of Lords abolishing the African Slave Trade, and became Prime Minister in 1830. The first Reform Bill, introduced in the Commons by Lord John Russell, was carried by Grey in the Upper Chamber by obtaining royal permission in 1832 to create sufficient peers to ensure its passing.

* * * *

Live births in Canada during the first quarter of 1946 numbered 70,377 (preliminary figures) giving an equivalent annual rate of 23.2 per 1,000 population as compared with 70,242 births and a rate of 23.5 for the first quarter of 1945. There were 3,269 illegitimate births forming 4.6 per cent of all live births as compared with 3,526 or 5.0 per cent. Stillbirths amounted to 1,527 or 21.7 per 1,000 live births as against 1,707 and a rate of 24.3. Deaths totalled 27,330 with a rate of 9.0 per 1,000 population as compared with 29,534 and a rate of 9.9. The natural increase for the quarter was 43,047 giving a rate of 14.2 per 1,000 population against 40,708 and a rate of 13.6. The births in Prince Edward Island totalled 602, and the deaths 262. Causes of death here were: Diphtheria 1, tuberculosis 9, influenza 13, cancer 23, intracranial lesions 22, diseases of the heart 70, diseases of the arteries 4, pneumonia 25, nephritis 22, puerperal 1, accidents 11, other causes 54, ill-defined and unknown causes 7.

## Notes By The Way

It is said that apple pies were once called "apple sticklin," "apple twelin," and "apple hogun" by old English housewives, and that they were baked more than 600 years ago exactly as they are today, says The Kingston Whig-Standard. Call apple pie by any name, and it's still the prince of pies when properly made.

As compared with years ago, the apple crop in Ontario has faded out of the picture, a clear case of neglect, lethargy and defeatism, among farmers generally. They have failed to cultivate, spray or trim apple orchards, the trees in thousands have been non-resistant to hard winters, and disease and pest have taken a heavy toll. British Columbia now has a rich Ontario market.—St. Catharines Standard.

There can't be much more compromising with state regulation and state control. We can't eat the cake of free enterprise and still possess it. The trend must be one way or the other. More than this, it must be decided emphatically at the polls by the true Canadian majority, so that we will not be continually badgered and disrupted by racketeers, who find a feeble, and vacilating Federal power such an easy mark.—Hamilton Spectator.

Customers of the Ideal Market, Lincoln, Neb., often come home toting a book in the grocery bag, says Pathfinder. Wedged between the store's counters is a 600-volume branch of the city's library. Like the market the "booketeria" is self-service. (Book borrowers even figure out their own fines.) They like it, reports Manager Lyle Hans. And so does he. There was a definite hike in grocery sales the first two months after he started satisfying "book appetites."

One thing they have learned in cold Alaska is to make no attempt to clean a silk or woolen garment in gasoline in the winter time. Recently two women were burned to death in so doing. "Just the friction," a writer says, "of lifting the material from the gasoline bath produces such sparks in the electrified air that an explosion almost invariably occurs." Although there isn't quite so much electricity in the air in this section of the continent, there are few indoor sports more dangerous than washing articles in gasoline. If you must wash them in gasoline, do it outdoors.—Catham News.

This is by every test an impatient age. Man seems nowhere disposed to emulate the slow but surer processes of nature, wherein a century goes into the making of a forest, a season to a rose. There is everywhere the same search for short cuts, for the means whereby something can be obtained before it is truly earned. The unrest is infectious, spurring many to reach for the sun before having climbed the hill. Yet man is the creature of nature, and can in no wise circumvent her reasonable laws. Anything that is worth the doing is worth doing well. All that is worth having is worth working for in the sequence of man's days. Knowledge is the accumulation only of a lifetime, and wisdom is it's yield.—Victoria Colonist.

If the police authorities of the nation have their figures right, three out of every four automobile thefts are invited by the owners of the stolen cars. Persons who would shut and lock every window and door of a home before leaving it empty will leave a car unattended and unlocked, frequently with the key still in the ignition switch, ready for the thief to turn. When the police say that correction of this bad practice would prevent many automobile thefts, they are probably right. For the professional thief the absence of a key might mean only a temporary difficulty, but for the youngster tempted to take a joy ride the absence of an inviting key hanging in a car might mean the difference between temptation and no temptation. — New York Sun.

In Norway, in some of the fjord districts, fishing and agriculture have long been combined. Recently, however, the peak of efficiency in combining land and water in agriculture was reached by a certain fjord farmer who was able to plow his field from a fishing boat. The farmer had a field close to the edge of the fjord and by ringing up a system of cables and blocks backing his motorboat to the shore and hooking it to the plow, he plowed a furrow in record time by pulling out from shore. A long cable and pulley at the far end of the field enabled the plowman to signal his water horse and a furrow could be plowed in the opposite direction. By this means, former Ole Mjeltbik attained the status of an inventor. — The Country Guide.

Girls are staying out of the nursing profession, says an American hospital official, because of the "bad manners" of doctors. The young women, he claims, will not submit to the boorishness and dictatorial attitude of these men with whom they would be called on to work. This explanation must be taken with reservations, for some pertinent facts do not bear it out. Business men do not find it particularly difficult to find secretaries, yet many of them are somewhat less than Chesterfieldian in their conduct around the office. In fact some delight in bellowing at and browbeating their hired help, but the girls take it philosophically as part of the job, and even extract some amusement out of the rantings of the "old man." We are afraid that some more plausible explanation will have to be found as to why they are staying out of nursing, even if the indictment of the doctors is sound.—Windsor Daily Star.

## PUBLIC FORUM

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

### EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT

Sir,—In the Public Forum of your paper a short time ago I read two letters on "our system of education" that disturbed me greatly. This was not because of any surprise at the arguments against educational improvement advanced by the writer. I had known such ideas existed among the uninformed and misinformed in our Province. But I have long cherished the belief that all ex-teachers shared my deep conviction that an improved school system is a necessity, and were only awaiting the opportunity to support a movement for reform. At this time, when it would seem that the opportunity had at last arrived, to me it was unthinkable that an ex-teacher should attempt to influence public opinion with such confused reasoning as we find in these letters.

We are told that no matter how bad the present system is we should not criticize it. We might arouse doubts in the minds of parents and pupils as to the value of the education to be obtained in the schools and a desire on the part of the teacher to escape as soon as possible from her profession.

I wonder if the writer knows how many students are in the teacher training class at P.W.C. at present as compared with the number of teachers who left the profession last year. That information should prove the seriousness of the situation, in spite of the desperate efforts of our Department of Education. And this is not, as he suggests, because of persons who "bewail and bemoan our present school system and incessantly demand, a new one." Far too little is said or written on the subject. We are reaping the harvest of many years of ignoring our educational problems. Is it not time that we recognized their existence and sought to deal with them?

The proposal to improve our present system and make our existing schools more efficient by the erection of Regional Composite High Schools throughout the Province is called a plan to discard our present system and replace it with "totalitarian" High Schools. He suggests that because our present system is not wholly bad, and the Composite High School has not been proved "to be everywhere by every educator considered to be the ideal one," it would be a mistake to make any such change.

This type of reasoning is carried out throughout several columns, but I feel there can be little advantage in discussing it further. Instead I should like to deal with an old argument against school improvement still heard from time to time. That is that because a number of former pupils of our schools achieved success in later life our school system is all that it should be. Nothing could be further from the truth. Because, occasionally, we see a child who, in spite of poverty and neglect grows into a healthy, well-balanced adult we do not praise the system under which he developed nor seek it for our own children. We know that for this one who succeeded there are hundreds who fell by the way and we are united in our efforts to raise the standards of living so that all children may have the equal opportunity that is their birthright. Why, then, do we think it advantageous that an education should be so difficult for our children to obtain that only the few succeed while the many are frustrated in the attempt to develop the best that is in them? And this in the days when we still have the lives of men like Churchill and Roosevelt as examples of what can be done by men who have had every advantage during childhood and youth.

Our educational leaders have a first hand knowledge of our problems. They have studied trends in education in other parts of the world and are convinced that the Regional High School System, with some adjustments to meet our particular needs, is the first step in solving our problems. Let us unite with them in this important step forward in educational matters. Only then can it be completely successful.

I, am, Sir, etc

ANOTHER RETIRED TEACHER

## Education Stirred Into Cocktails

(Montreal Gazette)

Canadians beyond the Ontario pale have mixed one part surprise with two parts amusement (adding a double dash of malice) at the announcement that a school for cocktail mixers is to be started in the Queen City. But a critique floating in such witticism is unfair. It merely demonstrates once again that the basic sentiments motivating Ontario have been misinterpreted.

Whatever attitude Ontario may take toward indulgence in alcoholic beverages in practice, in theory such consumption is deemed wrong. That tenet is basic to Toronto's historic attitudes. Public drinking is only worse because it is public. The legalization of cocktail "bars" (though no actual bars are to permitted nor any sordid exhibitions of bottled wares) has been a highly controversial question with some political import.

But Torontonians are law-abiding folk. Whatever their personal opinions may be, if cocktail bars are legal, they must be provided. And, relentlessly pursuing this legalism to its logical conclusion, it may be supposed that all Ontario will feel in duty bound to make appropriate use of the new opportunities to obey the law that are to be provided.

With what promises to be a [illegible] of mixed drinks

the cocktail law, Ontario, typically, will combine education. Faith in education is a second basic trait of the Ontario character. Hence the school for cocktail mixers. It is not indicated if there is to be a graduate degree in mixology But it is clear that this device is a splendid and typical compromise. By sending its barmen to a training institution, the whole social standing of alcohol is greatly improved and given respectability (Toronto's third basic faith). Incidentally it should also provide the whole province with better

## The Poet's Corner

### TOKENS OF LOVE

"But we have the mind of Christ."—St. Paul to the Corinthians.

I ask no "sign"!—for all around me stand
Symbols of God,—stars, flowers, valiant hearts.
"To these lift up your eyes, beyond the marts
Of sordid trade." So doth God's word command
Obedience ..... O, Canada, my land!
Make me thy harp to hymn His Perfect Love.
Heart of a Little Child! Sing thou in me:
Yodel to all dull ears God's Purity!
His Holy Oneness,—dropping from above
Sweet with all perfume like the hill-top dew
Which gives — though atoms burst—security.
His promise holds: "Behold—I make all new."
That "living Will" endures, while mountains split:
His Grace abides — our broken hearts re-knit.

—Frederick William Louis Moore
Victoria, B.C.
Ash Wednesday, 1947.

## Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

### EARLY RAILWAY DAYS

The history of the Prince Edward Island Railway begins with the Railway Act, 34 Victoria Cap. 4, dated April 17, 1871. This Act among other things directs that the total cost of the Railway, including rolling stock, stations, etc. —in fact everything needed to operate the road— "shall not exceed five thousand pounds per mile." With the view of keeping the cost within this limit, the Act further directs that the guage shall be 3 feet 6 inches. No curves of less radius than 600 feet to be allowed, nor any gradient steeper than 60 feet per mile; track to be laid with iron rails 40 pounds to the yard; equipment to consist of 10 locomotives, 10 first class cars, 6 second class cars, 6 combined postal and baggage cars, 100 box cars, 25 platform cars, 3 snow pilows, 3 flangers. The road was to be constructed between Alberton in Prince County and Georgetown in King's County, a distance of 101 miles. A short time afterwards branch lines, Mt. Stewart to Souris, 38 miles, and Alberton to Tignish, 13 1-2 miles, were constructed.

The Chief Engineer, J.E. Boyd, came to the Island May 10, 1871, In the same year the survey was begun, June 1; tenders for construction of the road were advertised May 26; the contract was awarded to Messrs. Schreiber and Burpee and signed September 11; and the ground was broken October 5. In the autumn of 1874 the railway came under the operating management of Thomas Swinyard, Railway Commissioner for the Government, but owing to snow storms and lack of powerful equipment was closed in the month of December.

In the early Spring of 1875 C J. Brydges, who was Chief Superintendent of the Intercolonial Railway at Moncton, N.B., supervised the reorganization of a staff for the P.E.I. Railway and operation. The following were appointed: William McKechine, Superintendent; James McKechine, chief train despatcher; G. C. Cunningham, engineer; Robt. May, assistant engineer; L. M. Poole, bridge and building master; Harry Houle, trackmaster; F. Roper, accountant and auditor; S. F. Hodgson, chief clerk accountant office; E H Brennan, chief clerk Superintendent's office; A. Stronach, mechanical superintendent; E. O Faulkner, travelling auditor; S. H. Brown, storekeeper; W. Glassford, ticket agent; G. A. Sharp, freight agent; Charles McNeil and G. A. Hughes, telegraph operators; J. Murray, Express agent; Benj. Davies paymaster, all located at Charlottetown.

The following agents and operaters were appointed: Alberton, D. Montgomery; O'Leary, C. Perry; Port Hill, W. Jenkins; Wellington, J. E. Arsenault; Summerside, C. Prescott; P Norman, telegraph operator; Kensington, T. C. Muncey; County Line, J. H. Byrne; Hunter River, T. Wickwise; North Wiltshire, H Dyer; Royalty Junction, W. F. Scantlebury; Mt. Stewart, H McEwen, P. Cottle, telegraph operator; Cardigan, N. Matheson; Georgetown, R. Munro; Souris Branch: Morell, J McTague; St. Peters, P. Bambrick; Souris, George McEachern; conductor, D H. MacGowan; brakemen, J.R. Scott, John MacLean.

—An original contribution to this column, by Mr. George A. Hughes 148 Prince Street, Charlottetown. Mr. Hughes and Mr Arthur MacKay, Grafton Street, who was section foreman on the Conway section Western division, are believed to be the only surviving Prince Edward Island railway men of 1875.


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## Conclusion of Anglo French Treaty of Alliance

(United Kingdom Information)

Mr. Bevin announced the conclusion of an Anglo-French Treaty of Alliance in the United Kingdom House of Commons, on February 28th. He said "I am very glad to be able to state that agreement has now been reached between the British Government and the French Government on the terms of a Treaty of Alliance. There are a few adjustments now being made. The Treaty will, I hope, be signed by the French Foreign Minister and myself on Tuesday, March 4th at Dunkirk. Its text will be laid before the House as soon as possible thereafter".

"I am sure the House will share the great satisfaction of the British Government at the successful outcome of these negotiations, and that it will warmly welcome this re-affirmation of the close bonds of friendship between this country and France."

Mr. Eden, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, warmly welcoming Mr. Bevin's statement, congratulated him on his part in these negotiations. Mr. Eden said "we shall all await the terms of the Treaty with interest. In this century the relations of this country with the people of France have had a special meaning on both sides of the Channel. We have been through so much together, through ordeals until final victory. And any expression of these true feelings of friendship under the Treaty must be welcomed in Britian as no doubt it was in France. Close and intimate relations of enduring friendship between Britain and France are a contribution to world peace. We welcome what Mr. Bevin has said. We wish him well on his journey to Moscow, and we shall all be with him in spirit at Dunkirk."

The decision to conclude a Treaty of Alliance was taken on the occasion of M. Leon Blum's visit to London in the middle of January. Negotiations were begun in London shortly afterwards between the French Ambassador, M. Massigli, and Sir Oliver Harvey, Deputy Under Secretary of State in the Foreign Office.

As has been officially announced, the object of the Treaty is to prevent any further aggression by Germany and preserve peace and security. With the Franco-Soviet Treaty and the Anglo-Soviet Treaty (revision of which to bring it up to date is under discussion between the United Kingdom and Russian Governments), the Anglo-French Treaty completes a triangle of mutual undertakings by the three European Great Powers to prevent any recurrence of German aggression.

Britain and France fought side by side against Germany in two world wars without any formal alliance such as that to be signed at Dunkirk on March 4th. Before 1914 Anglo-French co-operation was only based on the entente cordiale of 1604. It has been held that the existence of a formal Anglo-French Alliance might have prevented German aggression in 1914.

Now the signature of the Alliance gives a crowning concrete expression to the common aims of two peoples world-wide common interests and united in democratic policies and a determination to maintain peace. Mr. Bevin stated in the Commons on February 27th, that the Dominions Governments had kept fully informed about the negotiations with the French Government, and that the U.S.A. and Russian Governments had been told of the United Kingdom Government's intentions.

Mr. Bevin said further "pending the outcome of these negotiations about the Alliance we have continued to collabcrate with France in many other directions. There has been more than one Anglo-French Economic Committee, meeting recently of the stading and experts on both sides have been working continuously on problems connected with the commercial relations of the two countries. Furthermore, we have during the last few weeks had a useful exchange of views with French officials on various matters connected with Germany."


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