THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1947

The Churchill Route

Attention is called to an important letter in today's Forum by Mr. H. K. S. Hemming, with reference to the possibilities of western grains being brought direct to Prince Edward Island and other Maritime Provinces from Port Churchill via the Hudson Strait. The fact that ships can leave Churchill as late as November 15, thus permitting a vessel to make as many as six return trips from Churchill to Charlottetown each autumn, is something which is not generally known and which changes the whole picture, so far as the grain supply question is concerned. Mr. Hemming states that he has not yet been able to obtain all the cost figures. It is to be hoped that these will be disclosed with as little delay as possible, and that the whole matter will be gone into thoroughly and expeditiously.

What Says The Statute?

When the Provincial Treasurer, Hon. Mr. Hughes, declared in the Legislature last March that he could not agree with the Opposition claim that the tax on liquor and tobacco should be devoted to public health and not used as general revenue, he was riding roughshod over the law of the land. The Act under which this tax is collected was passed in 1941 and is specifically entitled "An Act to Provide a Revenue for the Public Health Services." The preamble reads:

"Whereas it is deemed advisable to raise a revenue for the purpose of defraying additional expenditure incurred in the provincial health services and particularly in providing facilities for combating tuberculosis: therefore be it enacted," etc.

Obviously, therefore, the Tuberculosis League is perfectly within its rights in insisting that this money no longer go into general revenue, as has been the case, but be used for the purpose for which the tax was imposed.

Moreover, Section 8 of the Act reads: "The tax shall be collected, accounted for and paid to the Minister by such persons, at such times and in such manner as the regulations may prescribe." The Minister referred to is the Minister of Public Health.

Be it noted also that the tax is for the purpose of defraying "additional" expenditure in public health services. This does not include the expense borne by the Department occasioned through the transfer of Falconwood and the Infirmary from the Public Works Department to the Public Health Department; this is not an additional expense, but only the accounting transfer from one department to another. The purpose of the Act is to raise revenue to pay for additional services not theretofore provided by our public health program. In particular, as the preamble states, is this money for tuberculosis work.

The phrasing of Section 8, providing that the money shall be paid to the Health Minister, is in direct contrast to that of statutes whose main or sole object is revenue for general purposes. For example, the corresponding section of the Prohibition Act (167) dealing with the fines and profits received from the sale of liquor provides that all monies received or collected "shall be paid into an account in the name of the Provincial Treasurer at such branch of a chartered bank as the Provincial Treasurer may direct and shall form part of the consolidated revenue of the Province."

The distinction is clear. In one case the money is to be paid to the Provincial Treasurer and constitutes part of the ordinary revenue to be used in the ordinary course of governmental administration. In the other case the money is to be paid directly to the Minister of Public Health, and kept separate and apart from the funds which normally come into the ordinary revenue of the Provincial Treasurer. They are funds at the Health Minister's disposal to be used in his department only. As a matter of fact, however, the Public Accounts show that the health tax has been paid to the Provincial Treasurer, put into ordinary revenue, and presumably spent as the exigencies of government or opportunity demanded.

This practice, now that it has been shown to be absolutely contrary to the statute, will surely not be defended as a matter of policy by the Government. As we suggested the other day, it is better for the Government to admit its mistake and have this tax money revert to its proper use. Otherwise there is not much use in our Legislature meeting and passing laws at all. The first duty of any administration, as of the humblest citizen, is to obey the law.

A Serious Situation

Reports from Parliament Hill tell that the King Government will now try to extricate itself from the mess of its dealings with the provinces by a new conference with the five provinces with which it has made different bargains. If this should happen, predicts an Ottawa exchange, we shall have the almost incredible spectacle of a fifty per cent. Dominion-Provincial Conference, with the provinces of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island included, the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, Alberta and Nova Scotia excluded. This is the sort of nonsense—parts of Canada drawn up against each other in hostile blocs—to which we have been brought by the Government's fumbling.

The purpose of this suggested 50-per cent conference would not be to see that the provinces included in it took what the Dominion offered them in the first place—what was proposed in the Dominion's original plan, and later modified by Mr. Ilsley. It would be to quiet and satisfy them by yielding to them the terms which bought off British Columbia—a jump from the original proposition of a $15 per capita subsidy to one of $21.

Ontario and Quebec, apart from Nova Scotia and Alberta, are not going to be bought or bludgeoned by the Dominion's tactics. They have asked that the Dominion-Provincial Conference be re-convened; demanded that fiscal problems between the Dominion and the provinces be discussed and resolved in a fair, decent, Canadian way. If they are denied that right, the only recourse left to them will be to impose their own taxation. Should they do so, it may well mean the beginning of the end, so far as Canadian unity is concerned.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Premier Jones has thrown his weight behind the project to develop fruit and vegetable canning in this Province. The next step should be to appoint some one—not a politician—expert and efficient to advise farmers, and would-be farmers how to enter upon and develop such an enterprise.

* * * *

The City Council have re-appointed Morrell & Co. auditors. It would have been a little ungracious to unseat them after proclaiming from the roof tops that their system of municipal accounting was the best submitted to McGill University department of public accounts.

* * * *

We enter the second half of the month today. There is so much still to do to adjust ourselves to almost daily changing economic conditions that one wonders what the outcome will be when Parliament meets and thrashes out pro-socialist vs. pro-individualist policies. One thing of course is certain, whichever plan finds favour, the consumer will be made to pay.

* * * *

The decision of the Privy Council does not mean that appeal to that body from Canadian judgments automatically ceases. All that it decides is that it is within the jurisdiction of Canada to decide for itself whether or not such appeals should cease. At the present showing five provinces are in favour of continuing the appeals.

* * * *

Fanny Kemble, tragedian actress, died this date 1893. She belonged to a distinguished theatrical family all of whom became famous in the nineteenth century. Fanny was a daughter of Charles Kemble, who played second to John, the greatest Hamlet of his day, parts played by Charles being Cassio, Macduff, Laertes; Fanny was outstanding in tragic parts and her reading and interpretation of Shakespeare both in the theatre and on the concert platform—the latter a form of cultural entertainment rarely given these days.

* * * *

Will our powers-that-be please note. A British Empire Exhibition will be held in Australia this year, in conjunction with the Royal Agricultural Show. Contributions from all parts of the Empire are being prepared for shipment to Australia. A large map of Canada, *indicating towns where Australian airmen received training during the war,* will form the background of the Canadian display. Aspects of reciprocal trade between Canada and Australia will be demonstrated, together with different ways in which Australian raw materials are manufactured for consumption by the Canadian market. The Canadian section will be supervised by Mr. R. C. Brown, who will arrive in Australia shortly.

* * * *

The 600th anniversary of the foundation of the Order of the Garter will be celebrated in Windsor with pageantry and music in the late spring of 1948. His Majesty the King has commanded Britain's Poet Laureate, Dr. John Masefield, to write a pageant play, and the Master of the King's Music, Sir Arnold Bax, is to compose its musical setting. The nave of St. George's Chapel, home of the Order, will be the setting of the Pageant. Knights of the Order under the Chairmanship of Bishop Hamilton, Dean of Windsor, are now at work on the plans.

* * * *

New schools costing $4,000,000,000 are to go up all over Britain as a result of the 1944 Education Act. This is the estimate of a committee of experts, formed to simplify and expedite the school building programme, whose report was published this month as a White Paper. The figure includes the building work needed for all reforms covered by the Act including reconstruction, reform and development of primary and secondary education, new schools on new housing estates, new County Colleges, and other wide developments in further education, and the expansion of facilities for the training of teachers.

* * * *

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics report stocks of creamery butter in cold storages and dairy factories at January 1 totalled 43,919,807 pounds, showing a seasonal decline of 13,277,387 pounds from December 1, but an increase of 7,700,017 pounds over the amount in storage a year ago. The stocks also were 5,758,000 pounds higher than the January 1 average for the five years 1942-46. January 1 stocks of cheese, at 25,768,722 pounds, were only slightly under December 1, but were 7,973,326 pounds lower than January 1 last year. Holdings of evaporated whole milk also were reduced, the total of 12,700,131 pounds comparing with 18,744,117 pounds at December 1, and 18,422,534 pounds at January 1 last year. Shell egg stocks were increased amounting to 2,445,733 dozen compared with 1,450,644 and 1,953,146. Frozen egg-meat holdings totalled 5,442,787 pounds compared with 6,877,264 pounds and 8,679,286. Stocks of poultry meat were substantially higher at 30,398,570 pounds against 25,972,324 pounds and 16,318,720.

Notes By The Way

The Prices Board says a number of upward adjustments in price ceilings have been made during the year, these having been necessary to reflect the impact of higher production costs and the cessation of some of the subsidies. All of which is another way of saying that the country has had a spot of inflation. —Brantford Expositor.

Radio Moscow claims the Russians have invented a track-laying train which allows 20 men to handle a job formerly requiring 5,000. No soapbox orator will describe this as a capitalistic trick to hamstring the workers at any rate. —Toronto Telegram.

What the ladies will say about Dr. Ivor Griffith, of Philadelphia, can be left to their imaginations Dr. Griffith says that the reason women primp is because they are trying hard to be as beautiful as the men. He says further that the males of any species have always been the more handsome and that women have inferiority complexes, into the bargain, about their comparative lack of beauty. Maybe he knows. He does research along that line. —Vancouver Sun.

Naturally the most prosperous nation on earth, we have mocked our own prosperity in the hour of the world's most desperate need when other nations were digging themselves out of their ruins. The great lesson of the war has been lost on us. While we speak big words of peace, we scorn the plenty that we have to search for the little more that we might get. We have grown doubtful in what should have been our hour of greatest confidence. We have tied our own hands and made an almost unexampled record of interior discord when the supreme need of all mankind was work, productiveness and good will among us. —Detroit News.

The noters of trends and viewers with alarm will find ample fodder in the portrayal of the year's best dressed woman in male hairdress, sloppy shirt, belling trousers, jitterbug keychain, zoot suit belt and play-toe sandals. Pending a sanity hearing for the board of style experts responsible, however, we'll generously assume it is a subtle hint that living costs have made the two-pant suit essential even in the top-bracket family. There had been hopes before that 1946 could go down in history as only a mildly screwball year. —St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

On the street car a group of high-painted high-schoolers were talking about a poster that displays not only Miss Detroit Street Railway for December, but six other charmers. The youths were loud in their praises of the seven. The discussion got quite heated and then it went completely cold when a liverish-looking mid-aged gent projected his voice into their paean of praise for beauty, to grumph: "Probably there isn't a darn one of 'em that can cook." —Detroit News.

I suppose the wine of my country is beer . . . Five miles away is Bere Regis. Just over the border in Devon is the fishing village of Beer, while up in the north of my county is Bere Hackett. Bere was the old name for barley, and this probably accounts for the name of the beverage made from barley. . . . A score of miles away to the west, cider-making comes into its own. . . . Cider-making is relatively new in England. We have a tradition that it was introduced for the first time into England by the monks of Forde Abbey in my county of Dorset soon after the Norman Conquest in 1066. BBC Talk by Ralph Wightman.

A Canadian bride, having come to England to rejoin her husband, was thankful after a heart-breaking search for accommodation to find near his camp a primitive three-roomed cottage which boasted as its only amenity a cold-water tap over the kitchen sink. One day she was wistfully describing to an English friend her home near Vancouver and produced photographs of it—a compact but roomy one-storied house, with its sun roof and central heating, its all-electric combined kitchen and laundry unit, and numerous labor-saving devices. The Englishwoman looked at the photographs. "But it's a wooden house" she exclaimed; and then— with a compassionate smile, "Never mind dear, now that so many of you have been over here and have seen our homes you will all go back to Canada demanding houses in the English style!" —Manchester Guardian.

The Poet's Corner

LIFE LAUGHS ONWARD

Rambling I looked for an old abode
Where, years back, one had lived I knew;
Its site a dwelling duly showed,
But it was new.

I went where, not so long ago,
The sod had risen two breasts asunder;
Daisies throve gaily there, as though
No grave were under.

I walked along a terrace where
Loud children gambolled in the sun:
The figure that had once sat there
Was missed by none.

Life laughed and moved on unsubdued,
I saw that Old succumbed to Young;
'Twas well. My too regretful mood
Died on my tongue.

—Thomas Hardy.

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.

A REVELATION AND POSSIBLY A REVOLUTION

Sir,— It will probably be a matter of surprise to Islanders generally, as it has been to me, to learn that so soon as we have a grain elevator near the improved railway wharf in Charlottetown with a rapid system of automatic ship unloading, we shall be able to lay down in Prince Edward Island all grains grown in the Western prairies, including wheat, barley, oats, rye and flax, at a net cost well below that at which the same grains can be landed in Montreal, possibly on an average of fifteen to twenty five cents per bushel. Although I have been investigating this matter for several months I have not yet been able to obtain all the cost figures, so it will be as well to accept the fifteen cent figure for the present.

The proposal is to have grains for the Maritime Provinces shipped from the grain growing areas to the Hudson Bay and brought down from Port Churchill in ships via the Hudson Strait, down along the Labrador Coast and through the Strait of Belle Isle, a distance between Churchill and Charlottetown of 1500 miles. Up to date, all grain shipments from Churchill have gone to Liverpool, a distance of 3000 miles. The Maritimes, therefore, will have a preference of fifty percent in ocean travel.

There has for years been a widespread idea in Canada that the Hudson Bay is closed for the winter during the month of August each year, thus preventing the year's Western harvest from being shipped by that route. It is now, however, stated by reliable Western authorities that ships can readily leave Churchill up to November 15th, thus permitting a vessel to make six return trips from Churchill to Charlottetown each autumn. Moreover, as their ships may be loaded to the top deck with 300,000 bushels of grain, a decided advantage is gained in freight rates over ships sailing from Port Arthur for Montreal, for the latter can only be partially loaded as they have to pass through the 14 feet St. Lawrence Canals. Naturally these ships from Churchill would have to be unloaded very rapidly, which could only be done with the best automatic marine leg unloading facilities and an elevator large enough to be used as a transfer and storage bin, so that the grain could be distributed throughout the Island and held by farmers and merchant dealers.

I have disclosed the above facts at this date, prior to obtaining all the necessary cost figures, because the farmers of the Island are now showing a keen interest in the building of an elevator close to the railway wharf in Charlottetown, and here let me emphasize the fact that this is an Island proposition and not merely a Charlottetown one. It would be of material assistance to farmers all over the Island enabling them to feed their livestock at a cost lower than could be done in Ontario and Quebec, while the fact that the finished product of the Prairie farmers would be liable to heavy rail freights when shipped East for export would give the Maritime farmers and feeders a decided advantage.

The above, however, is by no means the whole story, for if we can land wheat, oats, barley, etc., in the Maritimes at a lower cost than in Montreal we should have an advantage in the milling of flour and cereals, for not only will the production costs in these lines be lower in the Maritimes but we are geographically from six to eight days nearer the ocean than Montreal. Furthermore, in Halifax, N.S. —St. John, N.B — and Georgetown P.E.I., exports can be made every day of the year as against the five and a half months of closed winter period in Montreal and Quebec.

These facts I claim are revolutionary and too important to be neglected.

I trust that not only the farmers but the Boards of Trade of the Island will give these matters careful and immediate consideration.

I am, Sir, etc.
H.K.S. HEMMING.

MILK PRICES AND THE PRODUCER

Sir,—"Another Consumer" did not lose much time in getting back into your Forum in renewed effort to malign the milk producers adjacent to Charlottetown, and in rebuttal of criticism of his previous letter I offered through your columns on January 9th.

Posing as an authority on the matter under discussion, he indulges in a bit of ridicule in "exposing" the impossibility of some deductions I offered, yet notwithstanding all said, I still maintain I was correct when stating that in a given quantity of milk the butter fat content may be 13 per cent higher than that contained in another lot, and still not necessary that either show a 13 per cent butter fat test.

"Another Consumer's" inability to grasp the purport of that statement does not by any means alter the fact. For instance, milk of 3 per cent butter fat content is 25 percent lower value than milk showing 4 per cent, and on the same basis of reckoning, 4 per cent milk is 33 1-3 per cent higher value than 3 per cent milk. If that is not so, I am prepared to be authoritatively corrected.

So far as the deplorable milk situation in Saint John, N.B. is concerned, I am probably as poorly advised on detail as he is, only with this difference—I never presume to discuss any matter with which I am not familiar or know nothing about. I will, however, venture to suggest, the present impasse in Saint John is due to human nature cutting loose with both sides hissing at each other, revenging and taking revenge as the blood boiled, and now producers and consumers are at each others throats in deadly combat with no sign of a let-up, or give-in, on either side, and consumers including babies, growing children, invalids and certain aged people are suffering as a result. That is a situation we do not wish to see hold sway in Charlottetown, no matter how much it might thrill a pervert, goading from the shadows.

The substitutes for milk, suggested for use, while the conflict was in progress—cheese, milk powder, and condensed milk — are excellent supplementary articles of food, but hardly a replacement for that enervating, bodybuilding fluid called "cow's milk" purified and refined and made safe through the modern processing practices of sterilization and pasteurization. At any rate, from whence could we draw our supply of cheese, milk powder and condensed milk, if production of whole milk was allowed to become an extinct art.

A.C. asks why I, having knowledge of such irregularities do not report my information to the Milk Board? Well, I'll be brief and to the point and confess that so far as I am concerned, I have no confidence in the Milk Board as at present constituted. The Board can never fulfill with any degree of satisfaction the purposes for which it was originally created just so long as one-third of its personnel is so obviously biased against the hard working, poorly paid milk producers operating in various vicinities adjoining Charlottetown.

Dr. Anslie's report, with which I am not familiar, probably will show rare instances of impure and contaminated milk, but that does not indicate that all milk producers are equally careless and in the same category You will find imitators and misfits in every vocation, but that should not be sufficient reason to condemn the whole fraternity.

Minimizing reference had been made to the work in which I am personally engaged. Well, I don't mind that, but it provokes a thought. If the milk producers in the Charlottetown area will adopt, and apply the principles and practices that were so successfully employed in redeeming the hog industry of the Province from the despairing levels to which it had been reduced, a quarter of a century ago, there is no doubt in my mind that it would bring about a corresponding revolution in their business. The net returns to producers would be increased to profitable levels, while, at the same time the consumer could be enjoying his requirements at lower cost.

I am, Sir, etc.
J.A. GILLIES

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

CAPE TRAVERSE CROSSING

The mails which were forwarded from hence on the 10th instant, were detained at Cape Traverse until Saturday last, when the courier and another person got over in a flat, somewhat larger than the ice boat. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, they left the opposite side on their return having a passenger with them, and had nearly all perished in the violent snow storm of that evening. About ten o'clock they contrived to haul their boat on a small cake of ice, upon which they remained exposed to all the fury of the tempest the whole of that dismal night. To add to their distress they lost their oars by a wave breaking over them which had nearly swept them all off. About ten o'clock on Sunday morning, having drifted up to Egmont Bay, they were observed from the shore, when three men put off to their assistance and relieved them from their perilous situation, almost dead with cold and two of them frost bitten. They brought three Halifax and two Cumberland mails which arrived at the post office last evening about nine o'clock. A number of the newspapers were soaked with water, but the letters in general escaped damage. — Royal Gazette, Tuesday, March 22, 1831.

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CHARLOTTETOWN

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Barrister, Solicitor, Notary, Etc.
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