

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN
 Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)
 Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa.
 President, Ian A. Burnett; Vice-President, Wm. E. 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."
 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1946

Mr. King's Eulogy

Prime Minister King, even when delivering a eulogy, has a way of demoting all history to his own autobiography. Thus at the recent dinner tendered in honour of Justice Minister St. Laurent we learn, from Mr. King, that the true secret of Mr. St. Laurent's greatness was that he stood by Mr. King.

"I do not believe," said the Prime Minister, "that it has ever been realized how near we came, in November, 1944, to having no government at all in Canada. . . . I shall always believe that it was the firm and statesmanlike stand taken, in that hour of crisis, by the Minister of Justice, his clear vision, his wise judgment, his quick decision, and his persuasive powers which more than any other single influence helped to ensure the continuance of the government, and to avert an appalling disaster. I am perfectly certain that had Mr. St. Laurent withdrawn his support of myself, or, indeed wavered in that support, I should have had no alternative but to tender my resignation and with it the resignation of the Ministry."

Which leads the *Ottawa Journal* to remark: "Whether the resignation of Mr. King's Government in 1944 would have been of cosmic significance, as Mr. King here professes to think, must be left to the historians. Our own idea in the meantime is that if such a thing had come—and we doubt that there ever was much danger of it—Churchill and Roosevelt and Stalin, and even some government in Canada, would have managed to muddle along."

On Speech-Making

The other day an alert Canadian newspaperman ran across some of Winston Churchill's preparatory note-making for a speech. He wrote: "They probably proved a little disillusioning to Canadians who supposed that this peerless orator's phrases dripped trippingly off the tongue without preparation, by a process of sheer inspiration. As usual, then, the work of genius turns out to be mostly work. The great Churchillian phrase, 'blood, sweat and tears' came itself out of that very process, but the mark of its greatness, as of any piece of art, is its apparent spontaneity. Just as Michelangelo's paintings look as if they had been touched off effortlessly in a casual moment, Mr. Churchill's speeches always seem to be born only when the speaker rises to his feet. The great difference between Mr. Churchill's oratory and that of other current statesmen is that it shows no traces of its laborious origin."

These are words of wisdom, to be pondered by all who are ambitious of shining as public speakers. Too frequently people who would disclaim any thought of having the ability of a Churchill, try to make speeches without preparation of any kind. There is an intolerable imposition upon an audience, yet almost every public function produces bores of this kind. They get away with it because no one has the discourtesy to tell them what the intelligent section of their hearers is actually thinking.

Most long speeches are improved immensely by being summarized, which is the reason why speeches frequently read better than they sound. Why then, it may be asked, doesn't the orator do the summarizing when he speaks? The answer is mental laziness, or incapacity to distinguish between thoughts and mere empty phrases. Brevity, which Shakespeare called the soul of wit, is too laborious an achievement for these aspirants. They are a far remove from Mr. Churchill—still farther from Abraham Lincoln, who labored for hours over his famous Gettysburg Speech, which a short-hand writer could easily have reported in full on the back of a post-card.

Are Free Citizens

The Ministry of External Affairs of the Canadian Government has intimated to the Polish Legation at Ottawa that it had no right to compel 4,000 Polish soldiers entering Canada to register at the Legation and on insistence, Consular recognition would be withdrawn. This action would seem to be fully in accord with Canadian opinion. Nations of other countries may, if they wish, register at the Legation of their own country, but they cannot be forced to do so under Canadian law. Clearly the Canadian decision gives the Polish soldiers and thousands of others the right to disregard the order.

The decision, it is pointed out, goes much further than merely rebuffing a satellite government of Moscow in Warsaw. It is a step against that dualism in nationality which has been rampant in two wars, when Hitler laid it down, and Japan, too, that once a German or a Japanese, always so, that first allegiance was not to the country of adoption but to the native land. We don't want Canadians with such hyphenate ideas. It is believed that most of the Polish soldiers—including those who come to Prince Edward Island—are here to stay; they revolt at the character of the "free" government there has been established in Poland and, if left to their own devices and resources, will make good Canadians. In any event, they come out here to be free, and they are free, from Polish allegiance under the dictum of our government. It would be pressing strange, in fact a surrender of sovereignty if the Canadian government had approved, even tacitly, of the Polish Legation order to former nationals of that country. It

would almost be like a sovereignty within a sovereignty. It all goes to show, however, how the Communists are working.

Not Cheering

On the whole, Mr. Ilsley's recent address was not cheering. He apparently sought to convince Canadians that their tax burdens are light. They are not light. They are the heaviest in the world, says *The Printed Word*.

Mr. Ilsley pointed out that, while after the latest war, taxes have been reduced, taxes were increased after the other war. He appears to have forgotten that, back in 1941 and 1942 when he was laying it on without mercy (and with little complaint from the public) he was saying that the heavier the taxes during the war the easier it would be to reduce taxes after the war. No tax which starts at 25 per cent and rapidly rises to 50 per cent can be said to be light on those with small and moderate incomes. On larger incomes the rate rapidly becomes confiscatory.

The remark about taxes after the other war may impress a few who don't remember that the highest taxation between 1919 and 1930 was trifling and, moreover, that the other war continued from August, 1914, to April 30, 1918, before any citizen had to pay a cent of income tax. It was better to tax during the war than after, but the present and apparent intention of cutting taxes by the least possible amount is not keeping faith with the earners.

Backward, turn backward, O Time in your flight, Restore us the days when taxes were light.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Rebellion in Canada broke out this date 1837.

It is hardly credible, but we have the Bureau Statistics' word for it, that the cost of living went up decimal three per cent last month, and 7.2 above what it was a year ago.

At the Board of Trade meeting in The Charlottetown this evening, a delegation from King's County Board of Trade will be heard relative to the service being rendered by the Maritime Electric Co. Ltd.

The government of this country, usually regarded as one of the main producers of dairy products for export, says *The Letter-Review*, recently had to apply, in vain, to New Zealand, for a couple of million pounds of butter.

It is not encouraging to farmers or consumers to learn from a report on butter production by the Federal Agricultural Supplies Board that the current year's output "may not provide sufficient stocks at the year's end to meet a six-ounce ration in the first four months of 1947." The present allowance is six ounces a week.

The Feast of St. Nicholas; he is regarded as the patron saint of merchants and of travellers by sea and land, but also especially of the young and of scholars, hence adopted by the City of Aberdeen famous for its sea trade and university. His festival was formerly celebrated in all the English schools, and he still survives in the American Santa Claus of Christmas rejoicings, the English equivalent being St. Nicholas.

The *London Times* gives us the latest news from Moscow. "The Art Council of Soviet State Circuses has recently held a discussion on the repertoire of clowns and acrobats engaged in circuses. The head of the Chief Administration of Circuses commented on the unsatisfactory nature of the cross-talk used by the majority of Soviet clowns, and proposed that a contest be held with the aim of improving it. The CBC should note and inwardly digest its significance."

How many income tax payers, both rural and urban, must have re-echoed the sentiments of Mr. Howard Green, Progressive Conservative member for Vancouver South, when he declared his party believed building muddles could have been avoided, and "that one way would have been to put the tax reductions announced in the 1946 budget into effect at once instead of deferring them until 1947; that delay clearly caused a slow-down in the production of many badly needed articles. And another way to prevent these muddles is to permit Canadians to run their own business free from government direction."

A new variety of oats resistant to all the ices of stem rust and crown rust that happen to appear in Canada has been developed as a result of fourteen years' intensive work by plant breeders and plant pathologists at the Dominion Rust Research Laboratory at Winnipeg. The new variety is also resistant to loose and covered smut. According to official reports it is hoped that by the spring of next year about 1,500 bushels of the new variety, as yet unnamed, may be available for distribution to selected seed growers so that production of seed may be increased to the point where there will be enough for all who want it.

It would seem that the abolition of wage control is consistent neither with the Government's policy nor with the facts, says the *Montreal Gazette*. It is consistent, however, in another respect. For if the speech delivered by Mr. Gordon on the radio on November 1 is compared with the text of Mr. King's statement on November 29, both would be found to hint of "pressure." Says Mr. Gordon: "We find labor interests insisting upon higher wages but demanding steady prices." Says Mr. King: "The pressure for wage adjustments has grown." The change in policy would appear to have been made less from considerations of wisdom or reason than under pressure. But the pressure that in this instance bent the will of the government may very likely bend price control beyond recognition and beyond use.

Notes By The Way

Strange how good the children are about the house these days. That is one real service all these radio Santas do. —Owen Sound Sun-Times.

A notice was posted on the press bulletin board of United Nations at Lake Success asking correspondents to refrain from posing as delegates to get automobile rides from Lake Success to New York. A little later another notice appeared on the board. It asked delegates to stop posing as reporters to get into committee meetings to which they are not invited. —British United Press.

When the refundable payments were made the income tax offices sent the taxpayer a slip stating the amount of the refundable portion. It is safe to say that many taxpayers have mislaid those slips or lost them. The income tax offices have a way of making up for this in making collections from the taxpayer. They should be no less meticulously careful now about ensuring that the taxpayer gets his refundable slip or not. —Winnipeg Free Press.

It is an old question which is the cleverest variety of dog, the terrier, the St. Bernard, the Alsatian, to give a few examples, have their supporters; and some analysts maintained that the dog with the most brain with the most convictions. Perhaps the most concrete evidence is supplied by the owners of sheep-dogs, which are one of the only breeds definitely bred for intelligence. I know one of these that was condemned as too stupid for the shepherd, and it was adopted by an amateur farmer. In a week the United States had a would on instruction go out on its own and bring back the single cow to the yard to be milked, paying no attention to the sheep, and the little domestic dogger as not to eat the cat's dinner! One sheep dog of my acquaintance was good with sheep, but he was not good with young chickens and conducting them with their proper mothers to the right place. The job was done with a gentle patience in a way that delighted the watch. There is a reason and there is instinct; but also there is some mental power for which we have no name between the two. Perhaps the reason was developed along the lines of conflicting instincts was on the right track. The outstanding quality of the dog, especially, is that it obviously yearns to understand. —London Spectator.

The mastiff dog was known to the Egyptians since at least 650 B.C., and in England since the Roman invasion, relates The St. Thomas Times-Journal. Two thousand years ago a mastiff dog was used in his chariot on an English battlefield and looked with horror as giant dogs ran into battle with their masters and leaped at the throat of the Roman Julius Caesar. More than 500 years ago French soldiers at the Battle of Agincourt stood back in fear at a mastiff that growled defiance at them over the heads of the English soldiers until the English soldiers carried him to safety. Caesar was so impressed with the English mastiffs that he took a number of them to Rome and used them to combat in the ring against all other fighting dogs. The mastiffs killed him, and Caesar made them fight bulls, bears, lions, tigers and other animals. The mastiff is a big, powerful dog, weighing up to 150 pounds, measuring 10 inches around the foreleg, which is two inches more than the average man's wrist. In modern days he is used as a watchdog, a guard dog, and a friendly companion to his master. A few days ago a group of dog-lovers met in a London hotel to see what they could do to save the breed from extinction. There are only eight pure-breds left in the country—two males and six females and all old. It was reported that there are only two in the United States and it is hoped to be able to buy some of them and revive the breed in England.

It is a matter of historical importance that the strange markings on the Fraser Canyon rocks at Spuzzum should be studied by an ethnographic expedition, as Commissioner Parsons of the BC police suggests. British Museum and European authorities are sure the markings are not Ogham, the Welsh form of the Runic writings used in the fifth century, but the similarity to those ancient cryptographs is sufficiently notable to warrant further investigation. While the markings are not Ogham, the legend that Prince Madoc ap Owen Cwynedd emigrated to this continent with 900 of his followers in 1097 there is evidence for reasonable speculation about other arrivals many centuries ago. There were Indians in the Columbia River country two centuries ago who could speak Welsh. The location of these markings, on rocks 1,800 feet above the river at Spuzzum, is a point in itself that is worth some research. —Vancouver Province.

Alexander C. Kirk, who recently retired as ambassador to Italy, although a millionaire by virtue of his family's soap fortune, has devoted his entire life to diplomacy. He is ending 31 years of hard and sometimes unpleasant service for his government overseas. Kirk was entertaining at one of those glittering dinner parties at which diplomats in Europe routinely collect interesting and useful information for their governments. One of his guests was a woman who formerly had been an American citizen, but who had married a wealthy Italian count and was a complete expatriate—more Roman than the Romans. She was also a loyal follower of the fascism of Mussolini and during the dinner conversation went out of her way to condemn in violent language President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Kirk was seen to whisper

Agriculture in Transition Period

(Bank of Nova Scotia Review)

II

Milk production, like that of meat, has passed its peak. For the full year 1946, total milk production is expected to be some 5-12 per cent less than last year. The continued expansion in fluid sales has cut down the proportion of this restricted supply available for manufactured dairy products. In the Jan.-Oct. period cheese production was down 24 per cent from last year to 133 million lbs., creamery butter production was down 8.5 per cent to 246 million lbs., and concentrated milk about 1 per cent to 270 million lbs. The British cheese contract for 125 million lbs. in the year ending next March 31 will fall short of fulfilment. As for butter, since stocks at the commencement of the low-production winter season were slightly smaller than at the same date last year and since production is lower, there may be a cut in the ration again this winter.

The result of these continuing shortages has been a further upward movement in the prices of farm products over the past year. The best known is the rise in wheat under the influence of soaring U. S. prices. At the end of July the government raised the guaranteed price from \$1.25 per bu. for No 1 Northern at the Lakehead to \$1.35, retroactive to Aug. 1, 1945, and removed the ceiling of \$1.55 from all overseas sales except those to the United Kingdom with the result that the price on non-contract sales has risen to \$2.18. Price adjustments aimed at increasing supplies of livestock and dairy products: the 4c increase in winter ceilings; the higher British contract price for bacon and the corresponding increase in domestic pork ceilings; the temporary suspension of beef ceilings followed by their re-establishment at higher levels than those formerly prevailing; the higher level of milk subsidies this summer than last; and the October 1 advance in fluid milk prices following the removal of the producer subsidy.

Most of the price adjustments have occurred since the war, and the form of straight price increases rather than subsidies. Indeed, in conformity with the policy of orderly decontrol enacted by the Prime Minister last January, these subsidies are being reduced or removed "step by step" subject to the needs of maintaining reasonable stability in the level of prices and living costs. Those on fluid milk, milk for concentration, canning crops and berries for jam, and several of the smaller ones have been entirely removed and the hog premiums reduced. Farmers' returns will not, however, be affected, since in each case a compensatory price increase has occurred. The average of farm prices has been more than sufficient to keep pace with the increase (3 per cent) in the index of goods and services bought by farmers; a further rise in wage rates, higher living costs, and such price increases as those for gasoline and farm machinery. Over the war period as a whole the index of goods and services bought by farmers is almost identical with that of 1926-29, a period considered satisfactory to farmers.

Comparative price levels, of course do not give a complete picture of the farmers' economic position, for the increase in the volume of production directly affects the index of goods and services bought by farmers. With the increase in production, the rise in farm prices, and the relatively less rapid increase in operating expenses, there was over the war years a substantial improvement in the net income of farm operators. In 1939, according to the estimates, this amounted for Canada as a whole to about \$484 millions. At the 1944 peak, it was about two and a half times as much, and in 1945, despite some recedance, which took place chiefly in the Prairie Provinces because of smaller marketings of wheat, barley and hogs—it was still more than double the 1939 figure. Completely comparable estimates for 1926-29 are not available, but such figures as there are suggest that net income in 1945 was at least 40 per cent and in 1944 at least 70 per cent above the average for 1926-29. As for 1946, though it is not possible for us to make estimates comparable with those in Figure 2, it seems likely that gross income has increased more than enough to offset increases in costs which have occurred, and that there will be some increase in net income.

Of course, the depressed condition of agriculture at the beginning of the war was measured not only in the relatively low level of farm prices and income but in the load of farm debt, the depression of the farm economy, and the loss of many farms. The butler left the room, reappeared a few moments later and quietly approached the countess. "Madame's car is ready," the butler said. "But," said the lady, "I am at dinner—I haven't ordered my car!" Kirk broke in at that point. "Madame," he said, "when anyone speaks in my home of the president of the United States as you have spoken, he has ordered his car!" —New York Sun.

Washington Spotlight

By CLYDE BLACKBURN
 Canadian Press Staff Writer
 Washington

President Truman has not actually been ignoring the national emergency created by the soft coal strike but he has been treating it with an outward indifference that must be as disturbing to the apprehensive populace as the long Roosevelt regime to looking with confidence to the man in the White House to speak the words and do the things to end their worries, have looked this time in vain.

John L. Lewis and his mine workers are also a little disturbed by the lack of panic and of desperate efforts in the White House. This time the President and his advisers let it go to the laws of the land to deal with what the administration looks upon as a direct violation of those laws. They brought Mr. Lewis to court as they would any lawbreaker. And while the courts wait the case file went on as usual except for the progressive breakdown in the country's economy due to the strike.

And tonight the President and Mrs. Truman are entertaining some 2,000 Washington correspondents and their wives—the first time the correspondents have gone to the White House en masse for other than business purposes since the war started.

President's silence treatment of the industrial crisis, his special train visit to the Army-Navy football game in Philadelphia, his reception which kept the White House lights blazing far into the night, may not be in keeping with the national dimout and other measures to conserve coal and power.

But it is a new technique and time will tell whether it is more effective than panicky scurrilous to compromise the challenge of the United Mine Workers of America.

Gen. Eisenhower probably is the most powerful man in the United States today. Undoubtedly the Army chief of staff could get the nomination for President in either Republican or Democratic camp. He would be pressed to take it by both parties.

President Truman is unlikely to cation of buildings and equipment and the heavy backlog of deferred needs for implements, etc., that had accumulated during the 'thirties. For this reason, a part of farm mortgage debt, particularly in the Prairie Provinces, a survey by the Dominion Mortgage and Investments and Association showed a reduction there between 1937 and the end of 1945 of 60 per cent in the amount owing on farm mortgages and agreements for sale, and it is assumed that, since farmers are likely to liquidate current indebtedness before long-term indebtedness, total farm debt in the Prairie Provinces has declined at least in this proportion.

But it is not only the farm mortgage debt that has been reduced. In the year ending in 1945, according to the estimates of farm expenses in the Prairie Provinces, which accounted for \$33 millions in 1938, were reduced to less than \$15.5 millions in 1945, and in the rest of Canada they declined over the same period from some \$21 millions to about \$14.5 million. To some extent, also, deferred needs for machinery have been made good. In each of the years 1940 to 1944 (excluding 1943, when wartime restrictions on output caused a marked reduction) sales of farm machinery were in the neighbourhood of \$50 millions, and in 1945 they amounted to nearly \$64 millions, as against an average in the immediate pre-war years of some \$30 millions.

Undoubtedly there still exist very large needs for machinery and for repairs and replacements to buildings and equipment which could not be met during the war because of shortages of supplies. However this may be, the farming community is entering the post-war period in a relatively strong position. Debt has been sharply reduced, there has been no wild increase in land values of the sort that characterized the last post-war period, and, in contrast to previous periods of great expansion, fixed costs have been kept down and indeed reduced.

(To be continued.)

TO STAND TRIAL FOR MURDER
 TORONTO, Dec. 5.—(CP)—Raymond Hamilton, 19, of Toronto, today was committed for trial on a charge of murder in the blue-gown slaying of his employer, Alfred Hull, 43. Hull was found dead in a tiny tobacco shop in the East End late last month.

run. If his party could get Eisenhower the President undoubtedly would be glad to retire.

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The Poet's Corner
 DEAD DAYS
 The reeds creak in the dawn
 By the dead pond;
 Dry tongues respond
 From grasses yellow and drawn;
 And ever scourged by the wind
 The alders clatter and grind.
 Vines furred with the frost
 String from the wall:
 Their home, recall
 Summer leaves long lost,
 Cricket and fly and bee
 And their low melody.
 —Lloyd Roberts.

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)
 "A LARGE SUPPLY"
 In this year (1826) eighteen vessels arrived at the island from Great Britain, and one hundred and twenty-eight from the British Colonies. There were imported fifty-four thousand gallons of rum, two thousand five hundred gallons of brandy, three thousand gallons of wine, which for a population of about twenty-three thousand, was a large supply. The imports were valued at \$85,337 and the exports at \$86,426.
 The officers of the Customs received in this year official instructions from the Lords Commissioners to discontinue the exaction of fees after the fifth of January ensuing, as fixed salaries were to be granted to them—a regulation which extended to all the Colonies.
 —Campbell's History.

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