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

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1949

Federal Fiscal Evasions

"The report of the Auditor-General of Canada might not seem to suggest very interesting reading" says Montreal Gazette. And yet few recent official documents have proven to be of greater interest than this report of Mr. Watson Sellar.

"The phrase 'order-in-council government' has often been used to describe the Liberal regime at Ottawa. And the description would seem to be objectively confirmed by this public official, who, by his special office, is above the Government and apart from it.

"Orders-in-council are a very swift and often a very secretive means of legislating. They have their proper uses. But by their nature they are particularly likely to have their improper abuses. They can do things that are irregular, with the apparent hope that their secrecy may conceal their irregularity.

"In his report Mr. Sellar draws attention to the way in which a whole series of orders-in-council concerning the Department of National Defence have violated some of the most elementary and basic principles of government spending.

"It has long been a fundamental principle that the Government cannot make payments except for goods that have been actually delivered and for services that have been actually performed. By this means, the record can be kept straight. When at the end of a fiscal year a department has on hand money that was voted to it by Parliament as appropriations, but has not been spent, this unused balance must be 'written off.' The estimated expenditures for the next fiscal year must be embodied entirely in a new vote by Parliament. As Mr. Sellar points out, this practice is imperative 'to ensure that the Executive be ever in a state of dependency on Parliament for funds.'

"But this well-known and essential principle was apparently violated in these five orders-in-council. These orders-in-council involved the expenditure in advance of a sum amounting to \$680,967.28. They authorized payments to this amount before work was completed or materials supplied.

"It is a significant fact that all five of these orders-in-council were issued in the month of March, 1948, one of them as late as March 23. As the fiscal year ends on March 31, it would appear that the Department of National Defence was attempting to dispose of an unspent sum by making payments in advance, instead of allowing it to appear, after March 31, as surplus that would have to be written off and re-voted. By this irregular procedure the Government has, in effect, spent this sum of nearly \$618,000, which would otherwise have had to be requested from Parliament as part of the estimates for the following fiscal year.

"It would seem that the only vestige of legality that would justify such an irregular method would lie in the Transitional Measures Act. This act is a remnant of wartime, when the Government empowered itself to do extraordinary things in order to cope with emergencies.

"But a member of the cabinet has admitted that not even the Transitional Measures Act justified these five extraordinary orders-in-council. And this denial arose in a curious way.

"In a debate on the Transitional Measures Act in the House of Commons, Mr. J. G. Diefenbaker, Progressive Conservative member for Lake Centre in Saskatchewan, brought up the five orders-in-council which had been condemned in Mr. Sellar's report. Mr. Abbott endeavored to have Mr. Diefenbaker's remarks ruled out of order, by declaring that these orders-in-council had nothing to do with the Transitional Measures Act. But as Mr. Diefenbaker at once pointed out, by declaring that these orders-in-council had nothing to do with the Transitional Measures Act, the Government was taking away from them the last legal justification that might be cited in their favor.

"Despite the fact that these orders-in-council have now been pointed out in the report of the Auditor-General, and have been brought up in speeches in Parliament and on the radio, the Government has so far offered no explanation for its actions. Under such circumstances, silence would seem to be itself an explanation."

Gubernatorial Uniforms

According to Canadian Press when Ontario's lieutenant-governor opened the provincial Legislature last month he was all dressed up in "hand-me-downs." Chances are that other King's representatives who wore levee dress while performing the official duties of their office also were wearing second-hand duds. They can't be blamed if they did. It has been estimated the uniform prescribed for a lieutenant-governor for official functions would cost about \$1,800 at current prices. The bill comes out of the pocket of the man who wears the outfit. The uniform is called a lieutenant-governor's levee dress. Hon. Ray Lawson of Ontario got his from his predecessor, Hon. Albert Mathews, and Mr. Mathews got it from an earlier lieutenant-governor, the late Hon. W. D. Ross, who held office from 1927 to 1932. Five of Canada's lieutenant-governors wear levee dress—complete with gold

braided across the chest, a sword and black cocked hat with white ostrich feathers—at official ceremonies. The others wear morning clothes, as does Viscount Alexander, the governor-general, when he officiates at formal ceremonies in Ottawa. The lieutenant-governors of Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia still cling to tradition and appear in formal levee dress at official ceremonies such as the opening of legislatures. In New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Manitoba the present incumbents wear formal morning attire only. Levee dress was worn by the Hon. Frank Heertz when he filled the gubernatorial position here some years ago.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow, first Sunday in Lent.

James VI & I died this date 1625.

Tonight Boy Scouts and Cubs entertainment.

Good progress being made at the Legislature, with the prospects of the budget debate early next week.

The St. Lawrence seaway project seems to have suffered another setback. One of the last acts of United States Secretary of Defence, James Forrestal before his resignation, was endorsement of that project.

Charlottetown has long had excellent taxi service at remarkably low rates, particularly for one-fare trips. There can be little complaint that taximen now find it necessary to make a test cent increase on single fares. The move also brings that rate more in line with values for trips for two or more passengers.

The repeal of the obnoxious "autonomous" clauses in Prince Edward Island's trade union act removes the anti-labour stigma which had attached to this Province. Our union members are comparatively few in number, but depriving them of the fundamental freedom of association was a threat to the freedom of all.

Agriculture Minister Frank Putnam of British Columbia has been negotiating with other provinces in an effort to bring in uniform legislation on margarine across Canada. He said all the provinces but Quebec have agreed that laws governing the sale and manufacture of the commodity should be as similar as possible.

The Paul Flying Service has been exceptionally busy during the last few days in emergency flights. In addition to carrying patients from outlying districts to hospitals, it also has been employed to bring private individuals to their destinations, besides conveying Dr. Harold Stewart, Eldon and Dr. Shapiro, New Glasgow to their patients.

Postmaster General Ernest Bertrand announces that the Post Office Department is planning to issue a 4-cent postage stamp to commemorate the entry of Newfoundland into Confederation with Canada when the governments of Canada, Newfoundland and the United Kingdom ratify the union. The stamp will be on sale at all the principal post offices in Canada and Newfoundland on the 1st. of April.

Hippolyte Adolphe Taine, French historian, died this date 1893. Was a foremost literary critic and man of letters, enjoying a high reputation both in France and England. His great historical work (unfinished) is Origines de la France contemporaine, analyzes minutely the cause of the French Revolution. He was a concise yet powerful writer: "A society cannot be founded only on the pursuit of pleasure and power; a society can only be founded on the respect for liberty and justice."

Five years ago, in March 1944, Canadian troops fighting with the British 8th Army in Italy helped clear, with a few exceptions, all German troops out of the town Cassino. The exceptions were isolated enemy pockets on the outskirts of the town and a handful of troops strongly entrenched atop Mount Cassino. The town fell about six weeks later during the "big push" in May after being softened by an Allied bombardment rated one of the heaviest bombardments ever concentrated on a single target. The fall of this much battered Italian town helped clear the advance of the cosmopolitan 8th Army to Rome.

Readers of our Ottawa special bulletins will enjoy the following letter appearing in the Ottawa Journal.
Sirs:—Having seen the picture "Oliver Twist" now showing in Ottawa, I cannot refrain from launching a protest on the part of those whom the film, (and Dickens' novel before it), treats so brutally.

As one of that great and important clan, I am at a loss to understand the protests of Jewish groups and individuals against this picture. Anyone with half an eye can see that the element most viciously maligned and libelled is not the Jewish element at all, but members of the Sikes or Sykes family, all over the world.

The Jewish Fagin is merely portrayed as a thief and thief-master; the English Sikes is shown as a murderer not only of his girl-friend but of his dog. Whatever misdemeanor or even crime a Sikes or Sykes might be capable of, never under any circumstances would any of the name descend to the depths of drowning his own dog.

A sound, sane and law-abiding entity, the Sikes or Sykes family does not resort to stupid picketing or vulgar fistcuffs around a theatre. Come all the J. Arthur Banks of the world against us, the family still will stand impervious to and above, any and all vile reflections on the name.

ALFRED R. SYKES.
Parliamentary Press Gallery,
February 24, 1949.

PUBLIC FORUM

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

APPROPRIATE LINES

Sir:—The following lines, taken from "Locksley Hall," written by Lord Tennyson about one hundred years ago, might be of interest to some of your readers, at this time:
"Far I dilt into the future, far as human eye could see,
Saw the Vision of the world, and all the wonder that would be;
Saw the heavens fill with commerce argosies of magic sails,
Pilots of the purple twilight, dropping down with costly bales;
Heard the heavens fill with shouting, and there rained a ghastly dew,
From the nations' airy navies, grappling in the central blue;
Far along the world-wide whirling,
Pursued the south-wind rushing warm,
With its standards of the peoples plunging thro' the thunder-storm,
Till the wardrum throbb'd no longer, and the battle-flags were furled,
In the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world,
There the common sense of most shall hold a fretful realm 'n awe,
And the kindly earth shall slumber lapt in universal law."
I am Sir, etc. READER
Rice Point, P. E. I.

LIQUOR PROFITS AND DEBITS
Sir:—From your editorial of the 28th. I learn that the Government netted last year a profit of \$522,000 from liquor from gross sales of \$1,847,000. "This is a veritable bonanza in the way of profit-making." So the majority of people may think; but the debt side is hardly ever examined. People say off hand, including the Government: "This is easy money." Let us look at the other side. To make this half million dollars they had to take from drinking people here nearly four times as much: that is, for every dollar revenue there is extracted from the people of P.E. Island nearly four dollars; and for this they receive a dangerous narcotic drug that is filling our jails, menacing life and safety on the highways and tempting our youth to become drinkers and thus slipping into drunkard habits.

Chief Justice Campbell had something to say about this, reported in The Guardian a few weeks ago: "Of the cases appealed to the court 37 out of 41 have to do with the unlawful use of intoxicating liquor. Of the 342 in the Queen's Co. Jail 183 are there on the charge of being drunk and incapable. 22 of them for drunken driving. 'In fact,' the Chief Justice goes on to say, 'practically the whole of the law-breaking in Queen's Co. during the last six months may be traced directly or indirectly to the unlawful use of intoxicating liquor.'"

The great brewing interests that can afford to spend here in Canada upwards of \$200,000 annually for goods and advertising, in which they claim to be benefactors of their country, seem to care nothing at all that their business is causing so much waste and crime throughout the country. They are getting their abnormal dividends which seems to be what they care about. The moderate drinker claims to get a lot of fun from his drinking and so he does; but it is not the natural and right kind of fun. The man who has to be more or less intoxicated before he can think or crack a joke or be a member of his country, seem to care nothing at all that their business is causing so much waste and crime throughout the country. They are getting their abnormal dividends which seems to be what they care about.

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W. I. GREEN
Stanley Bridge.

HE PROTESTETH TOO MUCH

Sir:—Over three weeks ago I wrote a letter to your Public Forum column one relating to the nomination of Mr. Jack Price as a Progressive Conservative candidate for Prince—(the other relating to the recent Grand Jury report on the Queen's County Jail. Apparently you did not see fit to publish either letter, though I thought my points were well taken in both. I admit that they were not scholarly documents, but it was my impression that the most important thing about a column of this sort is the thought contained in the contributions rather than the style of composition. However, I will bow to the standards prescribed for Public Forum letters, and with the assistance of skilled tutors and extensive reading of only the best publications I shall yet produce a contribution perfect in composition and structure, brimful of logic, coherence, and unity.

But Sir, if my suspicions are correct and it is not the style that you object to in my letters, then, sir, I shall feel obliged to criticize the press severely. Unless a newspaper is willing and able to see and recognize two sides to all questions, and to present those two sides, insofar as it is able, to its readers, it is not a free agent of expression. You, Sir, like all other good Canadians, criticize dictators for restricting the Press. I ask you, sir, what difference does the restricting, what difference, whether it is an act that silences the voice of the people through the press or whether it is private prejudices? Is it better, for example, for The Guardian to attempt to force Mr.

THE R.C.M.P. REPORTED SEIZURE LAST YEAR OF SIX PARTS OF STILL, ASIDE FROM THOSE INTACT — WE'RE WONDERING HOW COME? WAS IT SOMETHING LIKE THIS?



Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

MARCH WEATHER

Though the weather here is never so severe in March as frequently happens in the two preceding months, a great part of it is sometimes boisterous and cold, and that most frequently happens when the preceding part of the winter has been remarkably mild, but in what is called a natural winter this month produces very pleasant weather; the days are now long, the sky in general very clear, and in the middle of the day the heat of the sun very considerable, dissolving the snow and ice rapidly. It is generally in this month that most of our timber is brought out of the forest, and also a stock of firewood laid in for the remainder of the year. About the middle of the month the sap begins to rise in the trees, and towards the latter end of it the business of making maple sugar commences. The mouths of the harbours, channels where the tides are rapid, the creeks and rivers and creeks which have been frozen during the preceding months now open; and aquatic birds begin to return from the southward.

In this and the two preceding months, a freezing rain, or as it is commonly called, a silver thaw, sometimes happens on these occasions; the trees are frequently encrusted with ice, that many of the smaller branches break with its weight, as the smallest twig will sometimes have an inch of ice around it. This state of the weather generally takes place in the night, and continues but a few hours; if the sun happens to shine while the trees are in this state, nothing can exceed the splendor of the forest, every branch seems enclosed in diamonds, and reflects the rays of the sun with the utmost brilliancy; it is impossible to describe the effects of the scene that this state of the weather occasionally exhibits.

An Account of Prince Edward Island, &c., by John Stewart, Esq., 1806.

Drew on the people than for the Daily Worker to try to force Mr. Stalin? (I am not trying to draw a comparison between Drew and Stalin). Frankly, Sir, were my letters not printed because their content disagreed with the editorial policy of the Guardian? Or was it simply because you thought they were not worth printing. Probably I was wrong in pleading the case of the inmates of Queen's County Jail, but I thought it would not be harmful to bring an evil condition to the attention of the people who unconsciously support that condition. I have heard it said that it is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.

No person is justified in discriminatory culling of material to be published in a column of the Public Forum type. The Public Forum is not a concession to its readers. A newspaper belongs to its readers, and it has an obligation to afford them the opportunity to use its columns to disagree with editorial policy, to state their stands on issues of public concern, and to urge public or government action on such issues. But, Sir, though a newspaper belongs to its readers, if the policy of The Guardian is to prevent those with whom it disagrees from having their say, then it is one newspaper I for one do not care to own.

JOHN ELDON GREEN
Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

ED. NOTE: Mr. Green is in error. Not only was his letter on Queen's County Jail published, but his letter on the subject of "An Outsider," Brigadier Price, by Prince County Conservatives, was not published because the subject had already been dealt with equally effectively by other correspondents resident in the Province. —ED. G.

The Age-Old Story

Even by the God of thy father, who shall bless thee, with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieh under, blessings of the breasts and of the womb.

Lenten Meditations

The Times, London

INWARD DEATH AND RESURRECTION

All life in Christ moves through death to resurrection. Christian faith, firmly based on St. Paul's interpretation of the Christian facts, has always seen in the process of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ a prophecy of Christian life in Him.

As Christ was born, so in Christ men are reborn; as He died, so in Him men die to sin; as He rose again, so in Him men spiritually rise to new life; and as He ascended, so men seek things above where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

In the temple of God within thee," wrote William Law, "the birth, life, sufferings, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ are not merely remembered but inwardly found and enjoyed as the real state of thy soul which has followed Christ." So the whole of itself in Christian experience.

To Christian faith life's experience is interpreted in the light of the life-history of Jesus Christ. Life in Him is no meaningless chaos, but a progress through death to a proposed fulfilment. Hope is no delusion, for it "maketh not ashamed."

Contemporary life suffers from a dreadful doubt about the possibility of escape from irrevocable disaster. Truly "the sorrow of the world worketh death"—death without resurrection. In multitudes of thoughtful minds hope is fast being extinguished; there only survives a stark resolution to carry on, which tends to become a total negation of spiritual values.

The one Gospel that can save mankind from complete collapse of faith and hope is the Gospel of Easter Eve, as Christians read it in the light of Easter morning; out of the worst, the best; out of defeat, victory; out of death, life.

Scotland In His Heart

A Frederick Niven Literary Award has been inaugurated by Mrs. Pauline Niven to preserve the memory of her husband who died in Canada in 1944. While such an award is to be welcomed, and will provide valuable encouragement to Scottish writers, Frederick Niven will be remembered also by the fact that he was a great novelist, but all his books were stamped with a sincerity and warmth that deservedly won him many admirers. Of him it might truly be said "he wrote from the heart." Although he did most of his work in Canada, Scotland always remained an essential part of him. His book, "The Flying Years", opens with the words, "Memory, as the years slipped past, always served Angus Munro with Loch Brendan through a web of yammering gulls, but his mother remembered it through a mist of tears."

And later as the Highland family are preparing to leave the country following their eviction: "Scotland," said Munro, "Scotland, just a few sad songs and old ballads. That's all. I see it getting worse every year.—God knows what the end will be. And yet—and yet, we'll take Scotland with us—a kingdom of the mind. So it remained with Frederick Niven—a kingdom of the mind. The Canadian scenes would recall to his characters, scenes across the seas. "There came to Angus what had often come to him. He saw, he

Notes By The Way

Man can freeze, melt, boil, evaporate, condense and drink water, but he can't make it fall. — Moose Jaw Times-Herald.

The great fear of many small European nations is that they may be selected as the "soft underbelly" in a future war. — Edmonton Journal.

The black Bamangwatos of Bechuanaland in South Africa have something in common with the white people of Mississippi. They are both against miscegenation, or marriage between whites and negroes. The Bamangwatos have given the boot to King Serete who married an English beauty. It must be humiliating to the white supremacy folk of the Southern United States to learn that, on another continent, the blacks feel it an insult to have their king marry a white. — Windsor Star.

After a four-year fight to organize low-rental housing for pensioners, success seems at hand. The Provincial Government has granted \$68,000 toward the project, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation has pledged a \$150,000 loan and a large sum of money has been raised privately. When Mr. J. E. Paynter a retired contractor who has a comfortable home of his own and who worked selfishly to provide decent, low-priced accommodation for the old people started his crusade, it was considered hopeless. Little by little the objections and obstacles have been overcome and at last about 180 pensioners have a home of their own in sight. About 60 houses will be provided and an administration building will accommodate about 50 single pensioners in its wings. — Vancouver Province.

Perhaps the worst thing about controls is that so many controllers like them. It used to be, in time of peace, that the only people who needed a shootin' war (the smaller the better) now and then were the professional militarists. And of these, only the more stupid. What was wanted was the most glory with the least flow of blood. But now there is a class of a different stripe. They don't wear uniforms, though they own striped pants. They are furrowed-browed individuals whose joy it is to plan and carry out plans for controlling the lives of all. If there is no war, public demand may end their jobs. If there is a war, oh boy! — The Printed Word.

None of the idealism so marked in most of the Labor leaders of his generation—Keir Hardie, MacDonald, Henderson or Snowden—touched J. H. Thomas. He was light of heart; they were severe, dedicated men. He was like an epicurean among stoics. He also wore his Socialism lightly, whereas theirs was a religion. He had a quick Welsh mind and a loud bonhomie and was indeed something of a "character." The British public like warmth and humanity in their leaders and took to Thomas until the budget leakage, but the flaw then revealed in his character shocked and disillusioned it. Similarly, he had always been popular with all parties in the House of Commons, and when the budget tragically overwhelmed him members were unable to withhold pity for the man, though there could be no forgiveness for his error: it was too grave. His resignation speech was heard in an almost unbearable tension, and when at the end of it he stepped down the gangway to leave the House forever and member at least was in tears—his reversible fall. The successful leader of the railways made no great mark as a minister. Nor had he the gift of oratory of MacDonald or Snowden. He lacked the fundamental seriousness essential to oratory. As a debater, however, he had skill and suppleness. He was also a fighter, and defended himself against his old associates after the Labor split of 1931 with the vigor if not the venom of Philip Snowden. — Manchester Guardian

heard, he smelt the old land. Often he had looked at the Rockies and seen a picture there like Ben Challen that stands over the head of Loch Brendan. The forest along the slopes he had, by half-shutting his eyes, turned into heather and moors. At Douglas's suggestion, he saw in memory the seaward fringe of Scotland, undulating to the tides that poured in from the Atlantic, in his reverie saw the silver reflection of the weaving gulls in the dark waters of the Loch." After Niven's death, a memorial service was broadcast to Britain from British Columbia when tribute was paid to the man and the writer. Under his widow's award, the sum of £100 will be given every 3 years for the most outstanding contribution to some branch of literature by a Scotsman or Scotswoman—in whatever country he or she may live.

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