THE GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887)
Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa.
The Island Guardian Publishing Co.
Editor and Managing Director, J. R. Burnett.
Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, FRIDAY, OCT. 28, 1949

Rent Control Issue

A matter of grave concern to the Federation of Canadian Mayors and Municipalities as expressed in a recent communication to the Dominion Government, are the persistent reports of the intention at Ottawa to remove all rent controls in March, 1950. This, in the Federation's opinion, would be a catastrophic step, affecting thousands of families throughout the country, more particularly in centres where large housing shortages prevail. Until the deficiencies in the national housing programme are rectified, they argue that it would be a dereliction of responsibility for the Federal Government to withdraw from the rental field on the understanding that the Provincial Governments may step in, if they wish. "It must be recognized that, for reasons of their own, the Provinces are not likely to enter the rent control field," says the Federation statement; "at any rate not in time to prevent the serious situation which will undoubtedly arise should the Federal Government relinquish its present controls." The statement adds that no objection can be raised to permitting reasonable increases in rent levels, provided they are carefully scaled and controlled, and that as a corollary to decontrol a positive programme of assisting low-rent housing construction is adopted.

In reply to the Federation letter Finance Minister Abbott emphasizes the possibility that Federal rent control might be found unconstitutional. "If this should prove to be the case and the Provinces do not meanwhile take steps to enact suitable legislation," he says, "a most serious situation could arise for which the Federal Government could not take responsibility. The Federal Government has no desire to evade its responsibility in this matter, and it would certainly be derelict in its duty if it did not warn the people of Canada about the uncertain validity of Federal rent control legislation."

The fate of rent control is being decided by the Supreme Court of Ontario in a test case introduced by the Canadian Federation of Property Owners. It is the contention of this organization that residential construction in the Dominion is five times the prewar peak and that fears that removal of controls would cause rents to sky-rocket are unfounded.

In the circumstances, however, it would appear to be the part of wisdom for the Provinces to prepare legislation to meet any emergency that should arise. The Federal Government is evidently preparing to wash its hands of the matter. The municipalities will be helpless to act—if action is necessary—unless they have authority from their respective Provincial Legislatures.

Scout Apple Day

It may be raining here tomorrow, but there will be sunshine in the hearts of the boys of the Scout and Cub movements. Dressed in their distinctive uniforms they will be out in force in their annual Apple Day appeal.

It is unnecessary to enlarge on the splendid role this youth movement plays in the life of our people, or to emphasize the debt of gratitude we as a community and Province owe to its unselfish volunteer leaders.

Scouting is synonymous with service. Service is not without sacrifice, but the time and effort devoted to our youth is well worth while.

Apple Day originated in this Province. Today it is the basis of Scout campaign appeals throughout the whole Dominion. This year in Prince Edward Island it has been organized on a Province-wide basis, and it is confidently expected that it will be the most successful so far attempted.

Five cents is what the Scouts ask for an apple. But there is no law against contributing more for a good Island apple and to a good cause.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Feast of St. Simon and St. Jude.

• • •

It is most unusual for Socialists to be charged with "piety", as Mr. Anthony Eden, Leader of the British Conservatives, did the other day. The shoe used to be on the other foot not so long ago.

• • •

A correspondent of the London Spectator sums up admirably two concepts in the field of education. Science, he writes, is concerned with facts; the humanities with values. So put, it becomes at once apparent that education must be much more than the accumulation of facts.

Progressive-Conservative Leader George Drew makes a generally recognized point in advocating shorter sessions of Parliament. Sittings have steadily increased in length until members tend to become more Ottawans than residents of their constituencies.

• • •

The United Kingdom is going to have a practical taste of how Socialism or Communism works for the individual—he may be ordered to change his job or its location at the dictates of the government, making him merely a peg in the wheel.

• • •

To perpetuate the link made during the war between Bexhill, Sussex, and Canadian troops billeted there, Bexhill Council have given Canadian names to roads on a housing estate on the town's northern suburb. Names chosen are Canada Way, St. Lawrence Road, Edmonton Road and Calgary Road.

• • •

The private member's proposal to substitute the Exchequer Court for Parliament for Newfoundland and Quebec divorce cases has little chance of adoption at this time. Even if adopted, the measure would leave this country's marriage and divorce laws in unseemly confusion. It is the responsibility of Parliament to make the law on the subject as uniform as may be.

• • •

Canadian Merchant Marine is, apparently, something like a total casualty. Costs of construction and operation put it in the same class as U.S. shipping, while the Canadian Government hesitates either to subsidize heavily, or as the Bennett Government did, to try any system of forcing Canadian trade with other nations to be carried in Canadian ships.

• • •

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce has gone on record as favouring the single alternative vote in federal elections. No doubt its adoption would prevent the anomaly of a bare majority of votes electing an overwhelming majority of the House but where second choice carried so much weight we would tend to elect second rate candidates whose claim consists of not antagonizing the supporters of others.

• • •

It takes skill and knowledge of human nature to put over something disagreeable to would-be aristocrats. It will be recalled that during the war there was imposed in London a severe embargo on the undue use of water. In all the hotels, the bath tubs were marked with a red line just how much water could be used, and daily baths were forbidden. A howl went up in certain sections of the Press, which was instantly squelched, when Lady Cripps, wife of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, announced that "a daily bath was merely a fad of the so-called middle class."

• • •

The executive of the Progressive Conservative Association of Canada will meet on Monday, Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, and party organization plans are expected to be the main topic of discussion, it was learned yesterday. Invitations recently were sent to members of the executive in all parts of the country and most have indicated they will attend. A party spokesman said that the meeting will discuss plans which will be placed before the Association's 1950 meeting. The 1949 meeting was called off because it would have conflicted with the last general federal election campaign. Mr. J. M. Macdonnell, M.P., the party's financial critic in the last Commons, is president of the Association and head of the executive.

• • •

John Locke, English philosopher, died this date 1704. The son of a Puritan who fought in the English Civil War, he was educated at Westminster School and Christ Church, Oxford, becoming a tutor there. He was influenced by the philosophy of Descartes, which decided him to abandon the Church for medicine. After spending a period in France, he returned to England and wrote voluminously on philosophy, theology, politics, economics, education and the sciences. "His Essay on Human Understanding," became famous during his lifetime, and by it he is mostly remembered. His main idea was that the human mind should be free to criticize everything, and that no limits should be set to this process by arbitrary authority.

• • •

The Amalgamated Civil Servants of Canada have asked the Federal Government for a Dominion-wide medical-insurance scheme for all Government employees. The request was made in a brief to the Federal Health Department by Harry Helm ,of Kitchener, Ont., president of the Civil Servants Organization, and Fred Knowles, of Ottawa, national secretary. The brief asked for Government health councils in areas where there are more than 600 civil servants and for the establishment "on a contributory basis of a plan of nation-wide hospital care and medical protection for all Federal employees." It suggested that health services of the Health Department and the Department of Veterans Affairs should be available to civil servants.

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.

LORD BOYD ORR QUOTED

Sir,—From the viewpoint of the farm, it was smart news to read of the awarding of the 1949 Nobel Peace Prize to Lord Boyd Orr, first director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAC) of the United Nations.

To this rural Canadian the above decision has even more than its own intrinsic significance at any time, as the world's people struggle to get back to the ways of peace. It seems to me to spotlight the very direct relationship between hunger and war; or, more constructively, between peace and plenty.

Early in 1948 a British writer (Ritchie Calder, of The New Statesman and Nation) went up to Aberdeenshire for the purpose of interviewing the then Dr. J. B. Orr, director of the Rowett Research Institute at Bucksburn. My clipping-book flashes back the following characteristic passage from the resulting story, which directly quotes this famous son of Ayrshire as follows:

"I can get farmers interested in the nutrition of animals, because I can prove it returns dividends in hard cash. But I canna get them interested in the nutrition of their ain bairns, far less in the bairns of ither folks. Think, man, the dividends that can pay, in human well-being, in lives fulfilled; aye, and in hard cash. There is hunger in a world which can produce all the food we need. But it is not just death from starvation which is a crime; it's all those millions who have never known the meaning of real health and freedom from disease, because they are undernourished. A thousand million people underfed in the world, and a thousand million farmers in poverty, because they are not allowed to feed them with the food they can grow! If you can tie up the basic human need — food — with the basic human industry — agriculture — you can change the whole pattern of world economy."

The intervening eighteen months appear to indicate that the nations are moving slowly, but steadily, in the direction outlined above, with the fervor, as described by your British contemporary, of "an Old Testament prophet—but with his hobnailed boots solidly on the ground."

I am, Sir, etc.,
READER.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

DECLINED WITHOUT THANKS

Excerpts from the reply of the Legislative Council of Prince Edward Island to overtures addressed to Lieutenant Governor Dundas from the Rt. Hon. Edward Cardwell, Secretary of State for the Colonies, expressing "the strong and deliberate opinion of Her Majesty's Government that it is an object much to be desired that all the British North American Colonies should agree to unite in one Government." May 10, 1866:

"Resolved that this Legislative Council does not deem it inconsistent with loyal attachment to Her Majesty's Person and Government to declare its firm conviction that, in deliberating upon a question seriously affecting the liberty, happiness and prosperity of the inhabitants of this Colony, this House ought to be guided mainly by the well-understood wishes of the people whom it represents, even should these, unfortunately, conflict with the declared policy of the Noblemen and Gentlemen composing Her Majesty's Government for the time being—the inhabitants of this Colony being, in the opinion of this Legislative Council, fully competent to decide upon so vital a question as the Constitution of the country in which their lot has been cast, and the means best adopted to promote and perpetuate the prosperity and stability of that country . . .

"To make suitable provision for the vast public works now contemplated by the Government of Canada, the tariff of the United Provinces must necessarily be greatly augmented, and the burdens of the people proportionately increased. That this Colony, if included in the proposed Union, would be subject to that tariff, is certain; but that its people would participate, in an equal ratio with the other Maritime Provinces, in the benefits resulting from the excessive taxation that would thus be imposed upon them, is highly problematical . . .

"Since the year 1851, when Her Majesty was graciously pleased to concede to the people of this Colony the rights and privileges of self-government, Prince Edward Island has made—and is still making—steady advances in population and material prosperity, and its inhabitants are now perfectly satisfied with the free and liberal Constitution under which it is their happiness to live, — the number of those who are willing to incur the risks and dangers inseparable from a Union with the larger and more powerful Provinces of British North America being, in the opinion of this Legislative Council, extremely insignificant and unimportant.

"We are not insensible to the obligation resting upon this Colony to contribute its fair share towards defraying the expense of resisting foreign invasion or aggression, and have cheerfully sanctioned the placing of the entire resources of the Colony at the disposal of the Government for the attainment of this desirable object."

Reminder To Tourist Caterers

Exports & Imports

"The broad distribution of Canada's exports and imports" in relation to the new rates of exchange undergoes analysis in the Bank of Montreal's latest Business Review, issued this week.

For this purpose, the Bank divides the countries trading with Canada into two categories. In the first, it places the United States and those nations which have retained to date their former parity with the U. S. dollar. In these countries, the Canadian dollar has now become nine per cent cheaper than before September 20.

"Broadly speaking," the Bank says, "this should stimulate Canadian export trade to this group, while conversely the currencies concerned and our imports expressed therein have become 10 per cent dearer in Canada.

"In the second category are the United Kingdom and virtually all of the remaining countries with which Canada trades. Here, completely reverse influences are at work, since in these markets the Canadian dollar is now dearer by as much as 30½ per cent with a resultant deterrent effect on Canadian exports and a stimulus to our imports from the countries concerned."

• • •

The review finds that, in the first eight months of this year, 58 per cent of Canada's total merchandise export trade, and 79 per cent of her merchandise import transactions were with the first group of countries.

"Moreover", it emphasizes, "in the months preceding devaluation, Canada was able to increase the value of her exports to the U.S.A. despite the fact that our southern neighbour was experiencing a recession in business and was importing less in aggregate from all sources.

"On the other hand, a more than commensurate increase in Canadian merchandise imports from the United States widened our adverse balance of trade with that country. The devaluation of the Canadian dollar, to the extent that it is translated into price changes and thereby influences demand in each country, will work to reverse this trend in the trade balance. But, in practice, the exchange differential is not reflected in reduced U. S. prices of all Canadian shipments across the border and, even where it is, there is no assurance that an already high U.S. demand will automatically increase in proportion."

Canada's trade with the United Kingdom and other soft-currency countries, in the first eight months of this year, was already showing the effect of their efforts to limit dollar buying and to increase shipments to North America, the Bank reports. Both these tendencies should be accentuated by the new currency values.

"Nevertheless," the Bank stresses, "it must be remembered that as far as the immediate future is concerned a considerable proportion of Britain's takings from Canada are contractual, while from a long-run standpoint Canada offers definite attractions to the United Kingdom as a dependable and friendly source of supply.

"With regard to the British export drive, realism compels the view that, at the new currency values, a substantial increase in the United Kingdom's Canadian dollar earnings cannot be expected to materialize overnight. Nevertheless, it can be said that the United Kingdom's efforts to expand markets in this country are being generally met here with sympathy, co-operation and understanding."

The Age-Old Story

Thus saith the Lord: If thou return, then will I bring thee again, and thou shalt stand before Me; and if thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as My mouth. Let them return unto thee, but return not thou to them. And I will make thee unto this people a fenced brazen wall; and they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee. And I will deliver thee out of the hand of the wicked, and I will redeem thee out of the hand of the terrible.

COAL
UNLOADING TODAY
BAYVIEW 13.50 per ton
SULLIVAN 15.00 per ton
INTERCOLONIAL 13.50 per ton
Sold in any quantity
A. PICKARD & Co.
Phone 240

10% DISCOUNT
ON ALL MADE-TO-MEASURE SUITS, TOPCOATS and OVERCOATS, TAILORED BY JAMES BROS.
3-PIECE SUITS $42.00 & UP
J. P. MacPherson & Son
157 Queen St. Charlottetown

— Notes By The Way —

The people of Oklahoma went to the polls last week, and voted for their state to remain dry. To remain dry in theory, that is: for in practice, Oklahoma is nothing of the kind. Although the sale of liquor is against the law, anybody who wants to buy a bottle can do so. In fact, he can have it delivered to his door—without extra charge—at any hour of the day or night. How many bootleggers there are in Oklahoma, nobody knows. But there must be at least 1,700, for that is the number holding federal retail liquor licences; licences from the national government to do what the state government expressly forbids them to do. It is not moonshine that the Oklahoma bootleggers purvey: it is legal liquor imported from other states to the value of $50,000,000 a year —Calgary Herald.

Modernizing old houses is expensive, but so is new housing. Several years ago rehabilitation cost was reported to be running upward of $4,000 a living unit. More recently the Port of New York Authority went into the rehabilitation business on a modest scale to house tenants displaced from the Union Bus Terminal site and has found its costs run about $3,380 per apartment, including purchase price of buildings. By comparison new construction in the low-rent subsidized apartments built since the war by the New York City Housing Authority has averaged $11,401 per apartment, including land purchase and development. — New York Times.

The garish history of press agentry presents one of its classic studies in futility in Bill Pine's adventure with the fifty parrots. Bill, who long has been one of Hollywood's most potent publicists, conceived the idea of training half a hundred of the talkative birds to repeat the title of Mae West's newest film, "It Ain't No Sin." His plan was to despatch the parrots to the larger American cities, where they could enliven interest in the picture by screaming the words to the natives. The drilling consumed many days of painful, nerve-wracking labor, but, at last, was accomplished. On the day before the picture's scheduled release, Pine went in to the producer's office and announced, "Boss, I've got a great surprise for you." "You don't say!" his employer rejoined. "Well, I have one for you—we've just changed the title of Mae West's picture to 'I'm No Angel!'" — Wall Street Journal.

The Poet's Corner

THE OLD MARE

Gray despair
Was on the old mare,
Grass turned bitter,
Sky a-glare,
And gnats like thoughts,
And thoughts like gnats
Everywhere.

Her underlip
Hung pendulous wide,
Her ears twitched back,
Her dusty hide
Heaved with her heavy breathing
And her eyes rolled ominously
To one side.

The mule colt lay
In trampled grass,
Slick-tailed, long-eared,
Bespeaking the ass
Carried so long in her body,
Born in travail and sweat—
Alien, alas.

But staggering
To unsteady feet
The mule colt fumbles
An unknown teat;
And the old mare relaxes and sighs,
Finding any motherhood
Most sweet.

—Elizabeth Coatsworth.

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

J. E. Burnett, LL.B.
Barrister, Solicitor, &c.
ODDFELLOWS BUILDING
134 Richmond Street
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
Box 414 Tel. 2380

Dr. J. C. Gallant, B. Sc.
DENTIST
Pickard Building
151 Great George St
DENTAL X-RAY
Phone 2667

MORRELL AND COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
Eastern Trust Building
Charlottetown
Phone 1447 Box 344

Matheson & Peake
A. W. MATHESON, K.C.
A. H. PEAKE, B.A., LL.B.
Barristers, etc.
Collections - Money to Loan
90 Great George Street
Charlottetown

Dr. A. L. MacIsaac
DENTIST
Dental X-Ray
Wheatan Building, Room 4
175 Grafton Street
Phone 291

NEIL W. HIGGINS
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
Currie Building
CHARLOTTETOWN
Tel. 1636 P.O. Box 453

J. S. TAYLOR
Optometrist
Eyes examined, glasses fitted.
Corner Kent & Queen Sts.
Office Phone 1956—House 1013

Chas. R. McQuaid
B.A.
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, NOTARY, Etc.,
Eastern Trust Building
CHARLOTTETOWN
Phone 711

Joseph R. MacMillan, LL.B.
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc.
75 Queen Street
PHONE 776
Money to Loan Collections

Bell & Mathieson
BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, &c.
R. R. BELL, M.L.
D. L. MATHIESON, L.B., K.C.
Attorneys at Law
LOANS ON CITY AND FARM PROPERTIES
156 Richmond St.
Charlottetown, P.E.I.

MacPhee & Trainor
H. F. MacPHEE, J.A., K.C.
E. SOMERLED TRAINOR, B.A
Barristers, Etc.
Riley Bldg. Ch'town

A. Walthen Gaudet, LL.B.
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc.
Phillips Building
111 Grafton Street
Money to Loan Collections

Dr. W. R. Carson
Chiropractor
Palmer Graduate
CHARLOTTETOWN
201 Prince St. Phone 1072

Frederic A. Large, K.C.
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, NOTARY
Royal Bank of Canada Chambers
Charlottetown, P.E.I
Successor
George J. Tweedy, K.C.

M. Alban Farmer
MONEY TO LOAN
B.A., LL.B.
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR, Etc.
Charlottetown, P. E. I.

J. A. McGuigan
NOTARY, ETC.
BARRISTER, SOLICITOR,
CURRIE BUILDING

Palmer & Haslam
A. J. HASLAM, B.A., LL.B.
Barrister, Etc.
Bank of Nova Scotia Chambers
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
MONEY TO LOAN

Gaudet & Hazard
Barristers, Solicitors, Notaries, Etc
Canadian Bank of Commerce Bldg
MONEY TO LOAN
GILBERT A. GAUDET, B.A., LL.B
Canadian Bank of Commerce Bldg

H. R. DOANE and COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
OFFICES—
Halifax
Charlottetown
Toronto
New Glasgow
Truro
Kentville
IN CHARLOTTETOWN
88 Grafton St.
Phone 2060 Box 247
RANDOLPH V. MANNING, C. A.