

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1949

Not Good Politics!

Prime Minister St. Laurent has turned "thumbs down" to the request of our fishermen and packers for Federal support for this season's east coast fish pack. Indeed, he refused to give the delegation from the Fisheries Federation a courteous hearing and disgusted even his own party supporters on the delegation by his hostile attitude.

The case which the Federation delegates sought to present to the Prime Minister received the unanimous indorsement of our Legislature two months ago. In a subsequent brief forwarded to the Fisheries Prices Support Board, the Federation suggested a new programme under which canned fish would receive price support handled by regular canners, who would be paid by the Board.

What was there in this reasonable request to rouse the ire of the Prime Minister of Canada? "The logic of this submission," comments the Moncton Transcript (Liberal) in a leading editorial commending the P. E. I. Federation proposals, "is readily apparent to those associated with the industry in the Maritimes." Does Mr. St. Laurent read Maritime Liberal newspapers? The Transcript reminds all and sundry that the adverse ruling of the Prices Board in this matter affects close to 5,000 fishermen in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

Ontario And Margarine

Margarine, having been manufactured free of all specific regulations for several months and now firmly established, came under provincial regulations in Ontario on Monday. The regulations are designed to safeguard the public against fraud and substitution and to regulate the ingredients used to produce the product.

The controversial section of the new regulations deals with coloring. This is limited to 1.6 degrees of yellow according to a definite standard. That is not as yellow as the accepted standard for creamery butter, but neither is it a dead white. If manufacturers desire there is nothing in the regulations to prevent them inserting a capsule in each package to enable consumers to color margarine as butter.

Naval Veterans' Prize Money

As part of a tradition which dates from the time of Henry VIII, those who served in His Majesty's ships during a period of war are allotted a share of the money accruing from the sale of captured enemy merchant ships and their cargoes. There is no legal entitlement, but the practice has been to introduce a special prize bill into Parliament on such occasions, authorizing distribution of the money.

A considerable sum of money has been allotted to Canada, or rather to former members of the Canadian navy and coastal air force, as their share of the prize money accumulated during World War II; and it has been left to Ottawa to get the money into the hands of those entitled to it. However, ignoring tradition, the government proposes to deposit the money in a lump sum to the credit of the naval and air force benevolent funds.

This proposal has brought immediate protest both from individuals and from veterans' organizations. They argue that the money is not in any sense an allocation to Canada or the Canadian government, but rather that the government is a temporary trustee of individual property. They feel that the government has no right to make any arbitrary disposal of the money without consulting those affected.

is no legal entitlement to shares on an individual basis," says the Port Erie Times-Review. "In every moral sense they are right; in fact the government's attitude reflects the same kind of thinking that prompted the deduction of tax arrears from compulsory savings. Individual rights are becoming less and less important in government circles, particularly where money is involved. But as one MP put it: 'It does not matter whether it (the individual share) will be only sufficient to buy a bottle of rum; it is the principle that is important.'"

EDITORIAL NOTES

Lobsters and politics go well together; red externally, pink internally.

Leadership of a great country calls for marked stamina in addition to other qualities. The present campaign appears to be a real test of that quality in the candidates for Prime Minister.

The announced returning of H.M.C.S. Crescent from Chinese waters marks the writing off of China so far as this country is concerned. Remaining Canadians and Canadian property can look for little further aid.

Secondary roads seem to be in good condition just now, and indications are that considerable work will be done on them. If it were not for our incomparable spring, hard surfacing would scarcely be needed.

The Premier did not succeed in making the grade as a candidate for the current election but he made the speech of a vote catcher at the rally Monday night, for which the Prime Minister must have been thankful.

New York Times published last week its special annual travel sections, listing the tourist attractions in Eastern and Western Canada. Alas, Prince Edward Island was totally ignored, not even its famous Old Home Week being mentioned. What happened to account for this when the other Maritimes were featured?

The Ontario Dental Association has sounded a warning against the misuse of fluorine in the hope of preventing tooth decay. Adults' teeth are not benefited at all by this treatment and children should only be treated by a dentist. Home medication with flourine tooth pastes and powders, mouth washes and tablets is valueless in preventing tooth decay. And dentists ought to know.

Following the annual general meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association at St. Andrew's, N. B. next month, the members will visit Prince Edward Island on invitation of Premier Jones. They will be here on June 20, and in anticipation of the visit Industrial Canada, the organ of the Association, publishes in its May issue an informative article on this Province, featuring its farm and fishery industries. The magazine cover shows the Abegweit in mid-crossing, and the article itself is profusely illustrated.

Sausages may soon be a memory in Britain or a pale imitation on the music hall stage! Butchers are saying that soon sausages won't be worth making. When Britain's meat ration cut came in on March 27th, supplies of the manufactured meat which make up Britain's sausages were reduced by one-sixth. This means that a butcher with 2,100 customers will only be able to make 150 lbs. a week. A smaller butcher with 1,000 customers can expect to make just about 75 lbs.

The theory that wives buy most of their husbands' clothes gets a setback in scientific survey of men's preferences in nine textile products, issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A majority said they selected most of their clothes. Eight out of ten admitted they selected most of their Summer suits, and 60 per cent chose the better part of their Summer sports shirts and underwear. Husbands, to the tune of 78 per cent, picked out their own trousers, and 58 per cent bought their own socks. On robes, only 43 per cent of husbands had the first say, and only 30 per cent did their own choosing of pajamas.

George Meredith, English novelist and poet, died this date 1909. The first of his great novels, The Ordeal of Richard Feverel, appeared in 1859; then followed Enoch Arden, Adventures of Harry Richmond, Beauchamp's Career, The Egoist, Diana of the Crossways, On of Our Conquerors, The Amazing Marriage. The poetry of his late period includes Poems and Lyrics of the Joy of Earth, Ballads and Poems of Tragic Life, Jump to Glory Jane, Selected Poems, A Reading of Life; to which may be added Short Stories: "I've studied men from my topsy-turvy close, And, I reckon, rather true. Some are fine fellows; some, right scurvy: Most a dash between the two."

We do not hear much about plans for the electrification of the Province these days, though they are pushing ahead rapidly with them at other provinces. A contract for the main construction work on Manitoba's new power development at Pine Falls has been awarded to the Foundation Company of Canada, Montreal, announces Hon. J. S. McDiarmid, Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. Associated with the Foundation Company will be the Bird Construction Company of Winnipeg. The agreement covers construction of a railway line extending from Pine Falls to the power plant, the erection of all camps, office buildings required for construction purposes, placing of all coffer dams, rock excavation, and construction of the dam and power house. Between 500 and 600 men will be ultimately employed under the project, officials estimate. First work, which will be under way within a week, will be the construction of approximately two miles of railway and railway yards leading from Pine Falls to the actual construction site. An immediate start will also be made on the construction of offices, dormitories and other buildings. Work on the railway spur and most of the building construction in the camp will be done by the Bird Construction Company, officials state.

The Poet's Corner

SONG ON MAY MORNING

Now the bright morning-star, day's harbinger Comes dancing from the east and leads with her The flowery May, who from her green lap throws The yellow cowslip, and the pale primrose. Hall, bounteous May, that dost inspire Mirth and youth and warm desire; Woods and groves are of thy dressing. Hill and dale doth boast thy blessing! Thus we salute thee with our early song. And welcome thee, and wish thee long. —John Milton (1608-1674.)

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

POPULATION BILL

In the House of Assembly on Friday, a pretty warm discussion took place on the second reading of the bill for ascertaining the population of the Island, with the stock, quantity of cleared land, etc. It was opposed on the principle of its being an inquisitorial nature, as it not only went the length of compelling people, under a heavy penalty, to give an exact account of their stock, cleared land, etc., but the tenure or quo warrantum under which their land was held. Besides, the expense, it was urged, of procuring the information required, would more than exceed any benefit that would be derived from it.

On Reading Churchill

By Jean Jacques Bernard (A French literary critic and writer reviews Churchill's Memoirs)

What Frenchman can read without emotion the Memoirs of Winston Churchill, now published by one of our principal publishers? I am thinking especially of those who went through the ordeal of the occupation and who, while they drank with impotent rage the bitter cup of defeat, when all prospects seemed closed, continued to listen in the voice of England, unbeaten, alone and free, as the only surviving hope.

But how fragile that hope in the summer of 1940, how that light flickered, you need only read Churchill to realize it. Is he not himself convinced of it? "If, at the time," he writes, "all those responsible appeared perfectly calm and full of optimism, the mere fact of relating those events, sends a shiver over you today." It was the time when the war cabinet found itself before the dilemma: was it possible to withdraw forces from England to defend Egypt? "Well," says he, "our decision to submit to invasion, instead of blood, at the very time, when we were binding ourselves to face a mortal peril, was both formidable and supreme-wise. None hesitated."

I know full well what might be said to the too acrimonious critics who oppose England and the France of 1940. England never underwent the dreadful experience of invasion, between her and the invader there was not a badly defended line of fortifications but the natural obstacle of the Channel; England is an island and not like France a prey open on her east flank.

Who can say how England, inviolate for the last thousand years, would have behaved under the forcible yoke? Did not Churchill in his moving appeals to Roosevelt not intend to work on his feelings, but to give him an excuse before American opinion, suggest the possibility, in case of an invasion, of a "Quisling" government which would have granted to Germany what he himself and his colleagues were firmly decided never to yield.

In order to be fair to the France of '40—and we are grateful to Churchill for due regard to circumstances—allowance must be made for all the realities of the time, the invasion, the breakdown of her armies, the exodus of the population, the lack of military and industrial preparation; the almost complete absence of air power, in which reason itself seemed to accept the German victory as an unavoidable catastrophe. And is it not sufficient, for the honour of France, that a single voice should have been raised, apparently so out of season, to place instinct above reason and to restore to the French people in their darkest hour confidence in their destiny? I do not know and I do not wish to know what will remain in the future of Charles de Gaulle's political action: what matters is that his name will stream out in the wind of history as the flag of France in 1940.

But, if this picture is comforting, how depressing is the light thrown



Notes By The Way

The march back in the matter of population appears to be definitely established in Saskatchewan. From a low point in the 17-year period of 1931 to 1948, which was established in 1946 of 833,000 the Dominion Bureau of Statistics estimate for 1948 is 854,000. This is an increase in two years of 21,000. The population is 67,785 below the high point of 1931, when the total was 921,785. The 1946 census in respect to Saskatchewan indicates that during the war years there was a very definite trend from the farm to the urban communities, particularly to the larger cities.—Moose Jaw Times-Herald.

April, 1949, may not have been the driest on record, but it must have been close to it. During the month the total rainfall during the month was 70 per cent below normal in the immediate Edmonton district. For the province, it ranges from that figure down to 40 per cent under par—with the exception of the Peace River country, which received more rain than usual for April. Equally bad conditions are general over the west. In Southern Saskatchewan hardly any rain fell during April, with the result that Spring moisture is away below normal. Many living in those areas are wondering if this is to be another "drought" year, like those that followed one after the other in the thirties.—Edmonton Journal.

According to the records of the Scottish Savings Committee, Forfar and Fraserburgh are the most thrifty burghs in Scotland. For the second year in succession, Forfar has taken first place for savings among burghs with a population of more than 5,000, and Fraserburgh has gained second place, also for the second year. Forfar headed with £39 per head in Dundee, £31 in £502,843, more than £50 per head of population. Fraserburgh came second with £536,961, or over £49 per head. St. Andrew's, Elgin, Crieff, and Laris came next in that order. The results for the cities showed Aberdeen at the head of the list with £39 per head, compared with £37 per head in Dundee, £31 in Edinburgh, and £21 in Glasgow.—Edinburgh Scotsman.

Sixty-five normal-sized eggs from one fowl in 44 days is the remarkable record claimed by Mr. C. L. Woodbine, of Barr road, Gravesend. Since the hen started the poultry show in February by laying 13 eggs in a week, she has twice produced six in one day. Poultry experts do not believe it physically possible for a bird to lay six eggs in one day, unless "she is the first of some new race of fowl." Mr. Woodbine is by Churchill on the men who remained in France and took charge of a country that was breaking up. Here again however we may be thankful to the illustrious Englishman for the moderation of his judgements.

He knows how to distinguish between the men who were merely the victims of the dreadful circumstances, and those who were conquered in advance, owing to their character. He pays a well-deserved tribute to Georges Mandel, our most irreparable loss as well as to the Presidents of the two Houses of Parliament, Herriot and Jeanneney; he pays it also to Paul Reynaud, unfortunately overborne by the disaster.

Churchill is fully entitled to speak and to judge. His indomitable energy dominates the tragedy of '40, as that of Clemenceau dominated that of 14-18. For those who in '40 were if not his brothers-in-law, but prisoners, of the watch for his voice, how fraught with emotion is that exhortation in past?

There comes before our eyes those gross placards, that picture of a big rapacious Englishman with his cigar, which the Germans sought to foist on us as the image of Winston Churchill. The caricature was too coarse to have any effect. In our remembrance, the figure is refined and transfigured, and the man who looks upon us in the depth of our misery is a man, portly indeed, but how tender, a man with an iron will, but how considerate; and as for that everlasting cigar, we know right well that it is a device, a protection against emotion. It is the cigar of anxiety.

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believed that they can be reduced. Manufacturers are beginning to think so themselves. In one laboratory which was working for the Government during the war ram-jets that were tested made more noise than a subway train at its worst. It is no consolation to know that the Metropolitan Opera's orchestra can do well when it lets itself go in a Wagnerian climax. New York Times.

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