

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1934

C. C. F. Policies in Action

Here is a sample of the bureaucratic regulations one might expect to see enforced in Prince Edward Island in the unlikely event of all the sixteen C. C. F. candidates being elected on Dec. 11 and forming a Government along the lines of the C. C. F. administration in Saskatchewan.

"Regio.—Employers of individuals whose health region fees are in arrears have the legal right to deduct amount of fees from salaries and wages, and forward them to municipal offices, according to Dr. L. S. Rosenfeld, director of health regions in the department of public health.

"He was commenting on a recent case in which several Swift Current employees were instructed by city officials to deduct health region fees from salaries of certain employees who had not paid the tax. The employees queried their legal position in making such deductions.

"Employers were protected under the Health Services act, said Dr. Rosenfeld, adding that municipalities are responsible for collecting the tax, and have the right to have employers deduct amount of fee from wages of delinquent taxpayers. Employers who do not comply with this provision are liable to be imprisoned for a maximum period of 30 days. There is a similar provision under the Hospitalization act for collection of fees in arrears."

Our local C. C. F. candidates are asking the electors to "compare the results in Saskatchewan with those achieved by the Old Party Governments of Prince Edward Island." The above official information should enable both employers and employees in this Province to do so very effectively.

Cigarette Prices

The new increase in cigarette prices means, for Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick smokers, that they are now paying 39 cents for packaged cigarettes which sell in other Provinces for 35 or 36 cents.

The reason is that both New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island have a provincial tax ostensibly applied for health purposes. In New Brunswick, we understand, this tax goes into a legitimate "tuberculosis fund."

In this Province the Jones Government, while collecting the revenue as a health tax, has all along refused to so regard it and has placed it in general revenue. This being the case, there was no excuse for the Jones Government not absorbing the extra cost which was imposed this week.

All but eight cents of the 39 cent price on an ordinary package of cigarettes is actually tax, including sales tax and a special War Revenue Tax.

The Moncton Times notes that the already high cost of cigarettes has brought about a growing "black market" of smuggled American brands in this country, and from all reports the ramifications are by no means small nor confined to certain areas close to the border.

An examination of comparative prices in Canada and the U. S. A. demonstrates why this situation exists. Standard brands of American cigarettes cost from 15 to 20 cents (depending upon the State) for a package of twenty, and this includes both Federal and State tax. In Canada the lowest price is now 36 cents—with an extra three cents added, as above mentioned, in the case of unfortunate smokers in New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

In this Province the cigarette and tobacco tax, along with liquor profits and taxes, have gone to budget. This is a sore point of grievance with tobacco users, as well as with the workers of the Tuberculosis League at whose request the so-called health tax was introduced.

The tax legislation was passed with the approval of the Opposition, who have since been strongly critical of the manner in which the money has been misapplied.

More Food For Thought

Noting that the National Convention of Newfoundland has been listening to certain observations made by Premier Jones of P. E. I. on the disadvantages that province has suffered under Confederation, the Halifax Chronicle says:

"Apparently the matter of these observations has caused the Convention to think deeply on the proposal that the Ancient Colony should form the tenth province.

"One imagined that Newfoundlanders would not take too much of a leap in the dark. With all due respect, however, to the situation in P. E. I. we might also suggest that the National Convention should take a look at the Rogers Reports on Nova Scotia economic affairs since Confederation took both prosperity and status away from this province. There it may read a story of systematic degradation of Nova Scotia trade and industry and consistent elevation of the industrial fortunes of Ontario and Quebec.

"St. John's, after all, is further away from Ottawa than Halifax. With the representation it would receive in a Dominion Government, if it were to come into Confederation, do Newfoundlanders really believe their island could pull more weight in the Canadian capital than this province or its Maritime sisters? This is a fundamental question."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Two more days till the election.

London-Australia air service inaugurated this date 1934.

Everybody is receiving promises just now except the would-be householder living with his in-laws.

Washington is studying psychological methods of preventing other nations from starting another war. Teddy Roosevelt knew the answer a long time ago. Speak softly, and carry a big stick.

Unlike Mr. Lester Douglas, M. P., Mr. J. Watson MacNaught, M. P., has absolutely no doubt as to the outcome of the election. Where doctors differ it is left to the patient electorate to decide.

For Canada to play its role in world economic security, its own economy must be sound, Hon. Louis St. Laurent says. Much of its financial security depends on world trade—trade which permits men of diverse nations to cooperate and understand each other better.

The British House of Commons has decided to present to the Library of the University of Caen, unhappily destroyed by British bombs, the 231 volumes of historical French documents, going back to the 14th century now in its own Library.

The Toronto Telegram expresses great admiration for the remarks of a 19th century Canadian statesman whom it quotes as saying: "Perhaps our present day politicians could study these profound observations with profit to themselves and pleasure to their listeners."

The world has lost much of its material wealth as a result of war but that can be replaced by hard work and improved techniques of production. What is more difficult to replace is the loss of education by the youth of every country involved. Education today should have high priority, or the younger generation will grow up in a less intellectual world than their fathers.

Evidence that man walked upright and used fire 1,000,000 years ago has been found in the Transvaal. Several expeditions, including one from the University of California, are seeking to confirm the theory that man first existed on the African continent. Apparently he lived in a very low state of civilization as no weapons have been found.

Apropos our Provincial general election the Ottawa Journal predicts: "As between the two old parties it is likely to be a close fight—four years ago the Liberals had a total vote of 35,396, while the total Progressive Conservative vote was behind by only about 3,500. The C. C. F. then polled only 1,436 votes, and there is no reason to suppose its candidates will do much better, or any better, this time."

If backward in other respects, the Ancient Colony is up-to-the minute in the handling of "price offensives." Striking farmers stopped supplies of fresh milk to hospitals following government refusal to grant an increase of eight cents a gallon for milk. There has been a rush to buy up available supplies of tinned milk. Some farmers are selling their cattle as they claim they are too costly to maintain with the present high cost of feed grain.

The Scottish Seaweed Research Association, which has already done much for the scientific and economic exploitation of seaweed, has now opened its new headquarters at Iveresk Gate, Musselburgh. Its present inquiries are directed to discover the food value and digestibility of seaweed as fodder for sheep, pigs and poultry. In addition, further use is to be made of seaweed as a fertilizer. It is believed that seaweed from Scottish coasts could yield chemicals worth \$60 million a year.

Thomas De Quincy, English essayist, died this date 1859; was one of the literary circle composed of Wordsworth, Coleridge, Lamb and others. Was a contributor to Blackwood, and went to live at Lasswade near Edinburgh. His Confessions of an English Opium-Eater, appeared in 1821, and was followed by critical writings and autobiographies. His reading was very extensive and he had great intellectual endowments. As a writer he was one of England's greatest stylists: "It is most absurdly said, in popular language, of any man that he is disguised in liquor; for, on the contrary, most men are disguised by sobriety."

This is an Island of relatively small farms, as is also Britain, where the average is about eighty-four acres, without counting farms of less than five acres. Two out of three farmers there are tenants and only one an owner-occupier, which shows the extent to which landowners have clung to their family holdings, even if they must give up their great houses and private estates. The urbanization of Britain has been inevitable since the Industrial Revolution. So has the betterment of the lot of the "lower classes," (as evidenced by Hon. Mr. Gardiner endorsed this week by the Prime Minister) but the special emphasis upon the working class is a new and doubtless permanent feature of British social life. The Labor party is not so much a cause of this, as a result. No government today could deny a higher share of the national wealth to the laborer than was previously accorded to him. The proportion of British people living below what might be called the poverty line is smaller today than ever. The opportunity for a good, higher education lies before the talented child of the worker, thanks to measures started by a Conservative Minister of Education, Hon. R. A. Butler, in the Coalition Government and carried on by his Labor party successors.

A complete recasting of electoral constituencies is now ready for submission to the House of Commons. This redistribution, recommended by the boundary commissions, will, when approved, take effect at the next general election.

Notes By The Way

Today, like most other things, the editorial page has vastly changed. No longer are its readers confined to the distinctly serious-minded. It has come to have a much wider scope. No longer does the average editor strive for a jolly, ponderous style that was the acme of excellency in the days of the leg-o'-mutton sieve. He realizes that there is a vast difference in the people whom he wishes to interest and adjusts his material accordingly. —Chatham News.

Crime costs the people of Canada money in various ways. Crime destroys property, involves loss of time, which means loss of money. It involves police costs and law costs and prison costs and the terrible costs of recidivism. And all these might be avoided, so far as the good proportion of the population is concerned, if steps were taken to lead the weak and the stupid into paths of industry and virtue rather than to allow the conditions to push them into crime. —Vancouver Province.

To say that the feed grain situation is desperate is an understatement. Not only does it threaten the very existence of livestock farming in Eastern Canada, but it means higher prices for consumers, says The Woodstock Sentinel-Review. It is forcing up the price of milk; it is forcing poultry and hog breeders to cut down and even eliminate their stock — which is going to mean a shortage and higher prices in the future. Meanwhile thousands of bushels of good feed grain are going into the making of liquor and beer. If every brewery and distillery in the country were closed down, the benefits would far outweigh the losses. There would be more grain for livestock, probably at lower cost to the farmer. And a lot less money would be thrown away on drink. This would not solve the whole feed grain problem, but it would do a great deal to ease the situation. President Truman had the courage to suggest such operations in the United States, to save grain for starving Europe. The same could be done here. This country needs milk more than it does whisky, butter more than beer, and so on. —Chatham News.

Ottawa has been warned by Royal Canadian Navy observers on this coast that thousands of Japanese mines are drifting toward our sea lanes and that there is a possibility that the British Columbia has no means of dealing with the emergency and is depending on the navy and the government to meet the need. The port of Ottawa will not daily with protective measures until a tragedy demonstrates their necessity. Some sources estimate that over 50,000 mines in the Pacific during the war. Now the mines' moorings are disintegrating and releasing the mines to drift toward the coast. The British Columbia has no means of dealing with the emergency and is depending on the navy and the government to meet the need. The port of Ottawa will not daily with protective measures until a tragedy demonstrates their necessity. Some sources estimate that over 50,000 mines in the Pacific during the war. Now the mines' moorings are disintegrating and releasing the mines to drift toward the coast. 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