

THE GUARDIAN

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Why Count Us Out?

It is regrettable that the itinerary of the Minister of Fisheries, who left Ottawa yesterday to consult with representatives of the fishing industry in the Eastern Provinces, does not include a visit to Prince Edward Island.

Surely this calls for some explanation. According to an official release from the Department of Fisheries, the purpose of the meetings is to explain more fully to the industry the nature of the programme outlined by the Minister in his statement of policy on May 5, and to invite suggestions from the industry before the programme is finalized.

The matters under consideration by the Government, which will require the active support and cooperation of the industry, include implementing effective inspection of fish and fish products to assure continuity of quality on the domestic and export markets, assistance to fishermen in making modern and efficient types of boats and gear available, providing capital assistance for the transportation and expansion of the facilities of production, processing and distribution of fisheries products, particularly those of distressed areas; taking specific action with railway companies to increase the use of the new mechanically-refrigerated cars for fish to ensure the proper carriage from the sea and lakes to the cities; facilitating adequate refrigeration in the main market centres and assistance in the distribution of quality fish at retail levels, and the undertaking of advertising and sales services.

Outlook For Agriculture

It is reassuring to note, on the authority of Dr. J. E. Lattimer, chairman of the Department of Agricultural Economics, Macdonald College, who is at present vacationing here, that the outlook for agriculture in Canada — though somewhat clouded and uncertain — is by no means as dark as it is frequently painted.

The future looks gloomy, he says, to those who are living so far in the past that they expect Canada to continue to depend on the export of surplus farm products, particularly in the form of grain. "Viewing with alarm" is being continually overdone by those who see the difficulties and who are not brought up-to-date regarding the position of agriculture. Serious difficulties do exist, but they must be viewed in the light of four favorable factors, namely:

- (a) Canadian surpluses of farm products are not so large as formerly.
(b) Access is easier to the market of the United States.
(c) Export surplus may be sold "on time" if necessary.
(d) Imports of non-food supplies may be expanded from those countries that will take our surplus food products.

Surpluses of Canadian farm products, Dr. Lattimer predicts, will not be so great in the future as in the past, because our population is now increasing more rapidly than our cultivated land is being expanded. This may be an unwelcome development for some groups that are interested in handling surpluses for export. It is, however, a very welcome development for the farmer who has been cajoled into supporting a protective tariff, in favour of others, by the "infant industry" argument, in the future.

The only surplus of serious and continuing consequence is that of wheat. The domestic market now uses 60 million bushels more each year than in the pre-war period. Considerable of this is used for live stock feed — a quantity varying according to price. For two years — 1943 and 1944 — both in this country and in the United States, more wheat was used for live stock feed than for human consumption. This method of marketing was from compulsion, but may conceivably be resorted to again — from compulsion.

The Atlantic Pact may render it imperative for Britain, United States and Canada to become more closely knit, economically, than they have recently been. In that closer bond, the Canadian farmer is bound to gain. When the three countries are considered as one unit, the trend of population increasing more rapidly than cultivation is expanded becomes even more pronounced. As a single trading association, these three countries — acting together — should have as little difficulty in disposing of their

respective surpluses as they would have in supplying the population requirements of a more balanced and dynamic Canadian economy. "Always more interested in what is done for agriculture rather than what is done for the business," Dr. Lattimer concludes, "I am confident that the farmers of Canada — who successfully revolutionized their industry to meet the challenge of the war years — will be able to adjust and revamp their business of producing food, to suit the new conditions of our time."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Destruction of the Bastille this date 1789 — the beginning of French democratic power, now represented by the Fete Nationale of France.

Margarine is not excluded from New Brunswick, but proclamation of the Sale Act means that manufacturers of substitutes will have to "mind their step."

Mr. J. Watson MacNaught, M. P. assistant Minister of Fisheries, began his duties in the new Parliament by officially opening the Pictou Lobster Carnival yesterday.

About the only people working these days are people who need not work — at least indoors. Those out-of-door workers envy those sheltered from the heat of the sun, while the indoor workers long to be out in the open.

The offer of the R.C.A.F. station to present the town of Summerside with a fountain for Memorial Park is a most agreeable gesture and indicative of the good feeling between citizens and airmen.

In Charlottetown the conflict between the improvement of our squares as pleasant open spaces for all ages and the need for playgrounds is unresolved. In this as in all things a balance must be reached. Neither object can be fully obtained.

Knowledge of "Infantile Paralysis," "polio," has greatly increased in recent years but still the advent of the hot weather danger season calls for special attention to the laws of health to reduce risk of infection.

Canada, it has to be recorded with regret, is the only member of the Atlantic Pact not making any adequate contribution to the military power of the Pact. We continue to be very active in U. N. affairs, but not to arm to enforce world peace.

The C.P.R. objects to Freight Rates being made a political issue, notwithstanding that the Government made it so, and the Royal Commission is operating under Government appointment. Premier Angus L. Macdonald has not taken it lying down, and hit back at the C. P. R. in his initial argument.

Summer railway service is in operation again with the extra train — each way between Island points and Montreal. The average age of travellers is considerably older than during the war and immediately post war years and the convenience of the through sleeping car service correspondingly more appreciated.

Summerside's not so agreeable relations with speedsters could perhaps be improved by a strategem used by the civil authorities in a far Eastern city when Japanese military vehicles persisted in racing about. The streets were made slightly wavy, unnoticeably so at slow speeds but sufficiently to cause a car at high speed to tend to become air-borne.

It was reported yesterday that a strawberry air plane en route to Boston had met with an accident. Inquiry at the Maritime Central Airways, however, disclosed this was not so. Owing to bad weather the pilot descended safely before reaching his destination, but shortly afterwards resumed his journey, and in the afternoon returned safely to Charlottetown without undue delay.

The Governor-General is not much in residence at St. Andrews-by-the-Sea. He has been away in the Arctic settlement at Aklavik, where he met Lord Montgomery's brother, Canon Montgomery, and both of them spoke at a brief public ceremony before the Governor-General departed for Norman Wells. At Dawson City, he met some 30 veterans of the 1898 gold rush and appeared to enjoy their company. At latest reports His Excellency was back in Ottawa presumably waiting for the opening of Parliament.

The recent election indicates that there are only 32 vet Communists. Out of approximately 40,000 eligible service voters, 22,714 marked their ballots on election day — though some of the rest may have voted as civilians. But of the 22,714 service voters cast for candidates of all political stripes, only 32 went to Labor-Progressive Party (Communist) nominees. It is highly unlikely that there were many, if any, Communist servicemen eligible to mark ballots who didn't. Their record for zeal is impressive, and suggests that they make the most of what little they have.

Nine years ago on July 15, 1940, the first Canadian military hospital to function overseas in World War II was officially opened near Taplow, Bucks., England, by the late Viscount (then Rt. Hon.) R. B. Bennett. It was constructed on the grounds of the beautiful Thames-side estate of Lord and Lady Astor where a similar institution had been built for Canadians during the First Great War. Rent for the hospital grounds was fixed at the unbelievably low figure of one shilling per year! The cost of building and equipping the 600-bed hospital was \$1,000,000, and was borne by the Canadian Red Cross Society. Over a period of five years, 25,068 Canadian servicemen and women were treated at Taplow. The first patient was admitted nine days after the premises opened and during the war years the hospital was staffed at different times by members of the 5th, 7th and 11th Canadian General Hospitals.

Sir Stafford Cripps On Britain's Gold And Dollar Reserves

(U.K. Information Office) Sir Stafford Cripps, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking in the United Kingdom House of Commons on July 6th on Britain's gold and dollar reserves, said: "The usual quarterly statement on the balance of payments and its effect on the reserves of gold and dollars is now due and the figures are being published today. During recent months there has been a decline of business activity in many parts of the world. Instead of a buyers' market we now have a sellers' market."

"The most difficult problem with which the sterling area has been faced is in its balance of trade and payments with the dollar area. This has been well demonstrated by the critical effect of the dollar shortage upon our sterling economy during the past few years. The decline in the demand from the dollar area for sterling area goods naturally brings with it important consequences."

"This change in the financial and commercial climate has meant that the sterling area has become more marked. As the House is aware from the April and May figures of overseas trade, there has been a considerable falling-off in our sales to the U.S.A. and this has reduced our dollar earnings. This decline has been even more marked in the case of other parts of the sterling area. The dollar area has been the primary commodity to the U.S.A., where both quantities and prices have moved sharply downwards."

"It is good to know that our sales to Canada were well maintained in the month of June, and that in that month they were very nearly at an all-time record. "We hope that these exports will be increased still further, especially as the result of the action taken by industry and by the Government following the visit of the President of the Board of Trade to Canada. We are also hopeful that this is by far the most upward tendency. It cannot be emphasized too often that this is by far the most upward tendency. It cannot be emphasized too often that this is by far the most upward tendency. It cannot be emphasized too often that this is by far the most upward tendency."

"The figures of our dollar deficit, before taking account of E.R.P. credits, are as follows: in the first quarter of 1949, £147 million, £177 million, £93 million, and £107 million. The corresponding figures were £220 million, £147 million, £117 million, and £113 million for the second quarter as expenditure was expected to increase temporarily in the month of June. In the event, however, the dollar deficit for the three months ending June has risen to £157 million."

"There were no drawings during the quarter from the International Monetary Fund, and the total balance of £85 million for E.R.P. reimbursement and £7 million for the Canadian credit. Reserves of the sterling area fell from £471 million at the 31st of March last to £406 million at the 31st of June. This is a sum of about £20 million owing to us under E.R.P. for goods for which we have already paid. In addition, part of the E.R.P. allocation made to us in respect of the first fifteen months of E.R.P. aid is designed to cover supplies which will not come forward or be paid for until a later date."

"The fall in our reserves is a serious development, yet a comparison with the events of July and August 1947 would be misleading. In 1947, though our recovery was under way, we were still in the middle of the emergency. In 1949, however, our recovery had made itself being checked by the fuel crisis in Europe. The whole economic recovery had made little headway and the political situation was clouded by weakness and uncertainty."

"Today, as the result of the conclusion of the Brussels Pact, the establishment of O.E.E.C. and the signature of the Atlantic Pact, our own position has been strengthened. Their countries concerned have been immeasurably strengthened. We have behind us in the world the combined resources of the United States and Canada. Our expenditure on capital goods on an unprecedented scale and of uninterrupted economic progress. His Majesty's Government therefore acted at once in the pursuance of what must remain the major objective of our financial policy, the safeguarding of the reserves of the sterling area. Before the middle of June we had made it possible to be compelled by events to give instructions to all our purchasing departments that they were to postpone new dollar purchases to the maximum extent practicable. That standstill arrangement will be continued for at least three months and until after the discussions to which I am about to refer. Existing contracts and commitments will remain in force but specific authority will be required

With the Blessings of Both



Making A Mechanical Mind

(U. K. Information) Since the war experiments have been going on both in the U. S. and Britain in an attempt to produce a mechanical brain that really compares with the human intellect.

Such a machine has just been evolved by a United Kingdom scientist working at Manchester University. Owing to his work a mechanical apparatus has been produced which can solve problems which it is almost impossible for the human brain to work out on paper. "This amazing mechanical mind has been built by Professor T. Williams, of the Department of Electro-Technics at Manchester University, England. It is being tested by two of the University's leading mathematicians, who report that it is working quite satisfactorily. It has just produced an answer, in a matter of weeks, to a problem set in the 17th century which is only now being completed by human methods of calculation."

There is a close analogy between the structure of the machine and that of man's brain. When it is in action a cathode-ray indicates, by means of a pattern of dots, what information is contained in it. It differs from, and surpasses, other mechanical brains which have been constructed, in that it can store and retain information.

The particular system of electronics embodied in its structure also ensures that this information is readily accessible. One of the experts who are now testing it describes it as only a forerunner of what is to come. "It is not yet a machine, but it is a step towards the goal. In the future we really know its capabilities," he said. "I do not see why it should not enter any one of the fields normally covered by human intellect, and eventually compete on equal terms."

Special research is being directed to finding the degree of intellectual activity to which the machine can actually be capable. Tests are also being made to discover to what extent it can think for itself."

Umbrage Of Parrots

(The Times, London) There is not, as there is between soldiers and sailors, wetbobs and drybobs or the hunters of foxes and the shooters of pheasants, an automatic clash of interests between parrot-lovers and scientists. A man can be both at the same time. So can a woman. Scientists have probably done more to help parrot-lovers than parrot-lovers have done to help scientists, but there is not on this score a feeling of superiority on the one hand or of inferiority on the other. In normal times these two classes of person hit it off well enough. But since Professor Jefferson delivered the Lister Oration a short time ago a marked coolness, latterly bordering upon tension, has developed between them. It arose from a remark which the Professor was quoted as having made when speaking of the mechanical brain. "It was not enough," he was reported as saying, "to build a machine which could use words; it would have to be able to create concepts and find suitable words in which to express them. Otherwise," said the foohardy savant, "it would be no cleverer than a parrot."

Those who have never loved a parrot can hardly appreciate the vehemence of the emotions aroused by these thoughtless words in the breasts of those who have made of this sagacious bird a close and devoted companion. A storm of indignation ran like wildfire through the parrot-fancying world, and already the more intelligent birds have learnt to reiterate, by squawking "Nuts to you, Professor!" and similar wounding phrases, their resentment at being thus disparaged. Unless it can also lay eggs, hang upside down from its perch, scratch itself in unlikely places, and crush the fingers of unwary visitors in its powerful beak until they scream in agony, no machine can start drawing comparisons between its own intellect and a parrot's. Besides, cleverness is not everything, a fact which parrot-lovers are probably more keenly aware than scientists. Parrots can make things devilish unpleasant if they take a dislike to you, and it would be prudent as well as a courteous gesture if Professor Jefferson withdrew an observation which has ruffled so many and so well-loved feathers.

STOCK FIGURE — In medieval morality plays a special character who acted as an attendant on the devil was styled "The Vice."

The Poet's Corner

FROM "AFTER-THOUGHT"

Ah, God! the petty foals of rhyme, That shriek and sweat in pigmy wars Before the stony face of Time, And look'd at by the silent stars; That hate each other for a song, And do their little best to bite, And pinch their brothers in the throat, And scorch the very dead for spite; And strain to make an inch of room For their sweet selves, and cannot hear, The sullen Letho rolling doom On them and theirs, and all things here; When one small touch of Charity Could lift them nearer God-like State, Than if the crowded Orb should cry Like those that cried Diana great. — Alfred Tennyson

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

"UNMARKED WITH INTEREST"

"Supreme Court — The public business of the present Term is unmarked with interest, being chiefly petty assault cases. On Friday, (as far as can be ascertained) devoted to the trial of a private in the 74th Regiment, was tried for Manslaughter — Verdict, Guilty. The prisoner having been already two months in confinement, was sentenced to be hanged on the morrow and discharged. Several interesting civil actions involving important points are in course of trial." — Prince Edward Island Register, July 3, 1827.

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Notes By The Way

Reluctance to accept new ideas is not so apparent as it was. There is still a lot of room for improvement in regular farming practices. The present seems a more than usually opportune time for a wide scale demonstration of those advanced farming methods that seem revolutionary today, and which may be commonplace in two or three years. — Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

There are two youngsters in a Montreal hospital who are going to spend their Summer holidays flat on their backs, with heavy bandages over their eyes. Across the country, there will be many more of them, and there will be a number permanently blinded. There was at least one "near-miss" of the same kind in Cornwall a few weeks ago, and probably there have been more. The villain in each instance is the BB gun, that dangerous little toy which finds its way into the hands of children far too young to understand the harm they can do. — Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

There has been a certain appreciation of the fact that the advance of industry and commercialism generally was bringing an end to the long-time natural beauty of the Nipigon River, that 40 miles of turbulent water which drains the lake of the same name into Lake Superior. The destruction of the beauty spots is a natural sequel to the harnessing of the waterfalls for the manufacture of electrical energy. The generally placid surface of a reservoir created by a dam is different from a rapids with its splashing and whirling waters. The settings of nature are more fascinating in many ways than the structures set up by man to his own purposes. — Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

Due to the neatness of her shapely legs, Actress Betty Grable receives the highest salary of any woman in the United States — a neat \$208,000. Miss Grable has other attributes mental and physical, but her legs are her most advertised feature. Her income proves once again that advertising pays. Many conclusions will be drawn from the association of Miss Grable's legs and her salary, and many of them will be wrong. Some will say she proves that beauty, particularly in women, is more important than brains. This is true only if one conceals that salary is the most important thing in life. To prove that one would have to show Miss Grable is the happiest woman in the United States as well as the highest paid. — Windsor Star.

Hamilton used to have its quota of the quart-day men in the old days of the bars and prior to the O.T.A. Most of them were never known to stagger or show any of the outward signs of intoxication. They attended to their business regularly, but were in and out of their favorite saloon many times every day. Their faces alone betrayed them. In time, however, their steady and heavy consumption of alcohol began to tell on them. The symptoms were common. A lower lip would begin to develop tremors. Speech would become slightly slurred and finally incoherent. Handwriting would deteriorate. Mental gears would wear and mesh; and soon about all that would be left of the victim of his own protracted excess would be a paled ruin of a man. Moderate consumption of alcohol is practised and enjoyed by many persons; but the abuse of it is nearly always disastrous. A quart day is a certain way to join the men of extinction. — Hamilton Spectator.

Will some other dominions, for instance, Ceylon, follow suit? I may. But far more important, and never mentioned here, is the possibility that Mr. Malan will speedily use the precedent as the basis of an electoral cry in South Africa. Some say that he hopes for a re-public within twelve months. If this happens, South African liberalism will be completely dashed. No one will be left to fight the native battle when Malan finally establishes his complete nationalist racial state. At present the senate is narrow majorities in the lower chamber. If he goes to the country of the republican issue, and is able to show that the British will readily agree to another republic in the Commonwealth, then he will certainly turn his present narrow majority into a solid working one. In that case he will be able to push through his projected constitution which makes the president answerable to no one but God, and enables him to procure an entirely subservient assembly. The natives will then have no recourse except to Communism. Critics in London New Statesman.

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