

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 1947

St. Patrick's Day Activities

Saint Patrick's Day has always been observed as a red letter day by our citizens of Irish descent, and in years gone by was looked forward to by all classes as an occasion for the first full-dress turnout of the year—that of the Irish Benevolent Society.

Since its formation here in 1825, the Benevolent Irish Society has steadfastly pursued its threefold purpose, namely, the relief of the poor of all creeds and races, the perpetuation of Irish national sentiment, and the performance of works of benevolence.

Also in keeping with time-honored practice, the Society is sponsoring a St. Patrick's day entertainment in the Prince Edward Theatre, opening with a matinee this afternoon and continuing this evening and tomorrow afternoon and evening.

He Overlooked It!

It is a curious thing that while in 1946-47 the Dominion Government paid the Provinces in subsidies and special compensation about 99 million dollars, the estimates this year provide only seventy-seven millions, though the Government has made offers amounting so far to some 226 millions.

This fact was pointed out in the House of Commons the other day by Mr. J. M. Macdonnell, who asked Finance Minister Abbott how much the estimates would have been increased had this provision been included.

One Liberal Minister is on record for the remark, "What's a million, anyway?" The present Minister of Finance has beaten this record by his ability to overlook a mere trifle like 226 million dollars!

Astounding Exhibition

Recently the Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent, Minister of External Affairs, told the House of Commons that "the (Canadian) occupation force in Germany was withdrawn because we were kicked (left) out."

A few days later the Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister, told the House of Commons that the Canadian occupation force was withdrawn from Germany against British protests; that as late as January, 1946, Britain was suggesting that Canada maintain in Germany an army division and R. C. A. F. detachments "at least until the Spring" of the following year.

"Here," says the Ottawa Journal, "we have the Minister for External Affairs telling the House one day that he couldn't keep occupational troops in Germany because they were 'kicked' or 'left' out, that, in effect, the Big Powers didn't want them; the Prime Minister telling the House a few days later (with the Minister of External Affairs sitting silently beside him) that far from having been kicked or left out, our troops were wanted in Germany by Great Britain, which beseeched us to keep them there! We doubt if in all the history of Parliament there has been such a spectacle—a spectacle of two members of the Cabinet giving diametrically opposed versions of the reasons for an important Cabinet decision."

The Small Man Pays

It is the people of small incomes who must pay most of the nation's total taxes, whatever economic reformers may say to the contrary. That seems to be the moral of the following analysis which has been placed before the U. S. Congress.

Of 52,000,000 income taxpayers in the United States, 36,625,683 receive less than \$2500 a year in taxable income and they pay total taxes of \$4.6 billions. In the next group, with incomes ranging from \$2500 to \$5000 a year, are 15,157,265 taxpayers who contribute \$5.4 billions in taxes. In the group receiving between \$5,000 and \$10,000 a year there are 1,314,457 taxpayers, contributing \$1.5 billions. In the group receiving between \$10,000 and \$25,000 there are only 551,267 taxpayers contributing \$2.1 billions. The group receiving between \$25,000 and \$100,000 narrows down to 143,725 persons, contributing \$2.6 billions. Above the \$100,000 figure there are only 9,599 taxpayers and they pay \$1.1 billions.

Thus it is seen that some 96 per cent of all income taxpayers have net incomes of less than \$5,000; and 67 per cent have net incomes of less than \$2500. It is also seen that incomes under \$5000 a year produce about half

the government's income taxes; while incomes under \$10,000 produce 60 per cent of these taxes. The bulk of the revenue lies in the smaller brackets because the bulk of the national income goes to them, to the great mass of the population.

In the higher brackets, above \$10,000, there are only 704,000 taxpayers and already they pay a third of the total taxes simply because their incomes are taxed at a very high rate—up to 86 per cent on the highest levels. It is commonly supposed that there are so many rich people in the United States that they could pay all the income taxes while the poor paid none. The latest figures show that the whole group receiving \$10,000 a year or more receives a total income of only \$15 billions. If it were confiscated entirely, if these people were left with no income at all, the government would still lack \$2.6 billions in its current income tax revenue of \$17.6 billions.

The parallel figures for Canada were issued in April, 1946, and tell the same story. In brief, people earning \$5,000 a year or less receive 85 per cent of all taxable income. People earning \$3,000 and the whole group receiving \$1,000 less receive 73 per cent by all taxable income. Hence the group from \$5,000 downward includes most of the taxpayers, a total of 2,299,500, while only 65,500 persons received taxable incomes over \$5,000.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is good to have the Fairview active once more; next it will be the arrival and despatch of ocean going steamers.

The battle of price control is now on at Ottawa. Decision must be reached by the end of the month when the Government's war time powers cease to exist.

"The Wearin' o' the Green" is the first order of the day. The second, the B. I. S. Parade. The next, visiting "Kitty Kearney From Killarney" at the Prince Edward.

Dr. G. Graham Samuel, British plant pathologist, who has been officially visiting the Province, and leaves today for Halifax, says he is satisfied the British Government made no mistake in placing its order here for 30,000 tons of Island grown potatoes. So say we all of us.

St. Patrick, Scotland's great gift to Ireland; born in Dumbarton this date 387; carried off to Ireland by pirates about 405; escaped after six years and fled to Lerins in Gaul, where he formed the idea of returning good for evil by evangelizing Ireland. In 432 he was consecrated and went to Ireland where Christianity had already some footing. He preached vigorously, travelled extensively, and to him the real conversion of Ireland is due.

Canada produced 8,674,000 pounds of creamery butter during February, compared with 8,671,000 pounds in February, 1946. With the addition of nearly 32,000,000 pounds in storage and in transit February 1, the supplies of domestic creamery butter available for consumption in February totalled about 40,500,000 pounds, an increase of 8,932,000 over February last year.

It is interesting to note that Mr. R. R. Knight, M.P., of Saskatoon, returned to the Churchill scheme again and said in the Commons he considers a number of commodities as suitable for export and import to that Manitoba port. Rising on a question of privilege, he referred to an "unfortunate error" in a Canadian Press report of a speech he made in the House March 4 which quoted him incorrectly as saying there never had been any suggestion that the port handle any products other than wheat.

Mr. Knight said he considered suitable as exports, among other things, wood pulp, cattle, poplar wood, and feeds and, as imports, woolen goods and coal from the Maritime Provinces and diesel engines from Britain.

Canadian Press reports that the cities which have already announced daylight saving will start April 27 include Saint John, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Regina, Moose Jaw, Winnipeg and Vancouver will also go on summer time, but haven't yet officially settled the date. They will likely conform with the others and with United States cities, which will make the change April 27. Sydney, N. S., is another city that will advance the clocks but hasn't officially set the date, while the question is still undecided at Halifax. Here there has been no move to adopt daylight saving time this summer, but Premier Jones has announced he intends moving a bill withdrawing from the municipalities enabling legislation because Prince Edward Island wished to act in uniformity with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Which means, it is presumed, there will be no official daylight saving here.

City Councillor Michael Buhay, Labor Progressive candidate in the Montreal Cartier by-election charges that the Liberal party is responsible for increase of candidates, to split the vote so that the Liberal machine would have easier going. The March 31 by-election in Cartier is rapidly shaping up into a "free-for-all" with a seventh prospective candidate taking out his nomination papers. The new candidate is Louis Valiquette, of 4643 St. Dominique street, who told the returning officer that he would run as an independent labor. He joins the following who have announced their candidacy up to now and have taken out their nomination papers: Maurice Hartt, K.C., M.L.A. for St. Louis, Liberal; Michael Buhay, city councillor, Labor Progressive; Paul Masse, Bloc Populaire-supported independent; Dave Rochon, city councillor, independent Liberal; Onil Leonide Gingras, former mayoralty candidate, independent; J. P. Boisjoly, independent Progressive Conservative. Of these, only Mr. Buhay and Mr. Rochon have made their official deposits of \$200. The others have simply taken out their nomination papers which they must file with the returning officer, with the deposit, before noon on March 24, one week before the election.

Notes By The Way

An old Empire, in its imperial phase, is at its twilight. But the brave spirit which created it need not die, however the needs of the moment and the democratic ideal may transform it. The New Britain is more appealing to the American mind than the old. We can understand it better. In its hour of darkness it breathes courage and liberation.—New York Times.

The American Bar Association is sponsoring a correspondence course Law and order in an old combination, but law and mail order is surely something new.—Toronto Star.

Some motorists have deflated tires a few pounds during slippery weather, believing the softer tire is safer under such conditions. Evidently this is a false notion. Skid tests on a frozen lake surface conducted by the National Safety Council of the United States have shown the deflated tires are no safer on ice. Motorists are advised by these safety authorities to keep tires inflated to the exact requirement at all times—and slow down.—Kitchener Record.

If the United States does take over these British commitments, it will therefore be doing more than occupy a military position. It will have to consider the possibilities of helping establish democracy in Greece. It will be called on to provide economic assistance to the Arab states, with a view to raising living standards in countries which are now only too vulnerable to Communist Propaganda. It will have to help devise a constructive solution to the Palestine problem. It will have to give sympathetic consideration to legitimate Russian interests. The choice is one which should be made in full recognition of all its implications, and of the financial burden involved, so that this country does not slide unwittingly into a position that is physically or morally untenable. But the situation is urgent; the momentous decision cannot be long delayed. The best resources of heart and mind must be applied to the problem immediately.—New York Herald Tribune.

Farmers near industrial centres may eventually be harvesting bumper vegetable crops if smoke is funneled to them. According to Russian Research News, Soviet scientists have developed a method of using gases that increase the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere breathed by plants. At one factory smoke is fed from the furnaces into a reservoir and then forced through a pipe into a hothouse of shrubs and vegetables. Plants flourished better than ever, the quality of their fruit was improved. At a state farm in the Moscow vicinity an installation is being made to fertilize the atmosphere breathed by plants occupying an area of 1,500 square meters of enclosed soil.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

The highest price ever paid for a single piece of glass, \$5,600, was paid in London this week for a goblet, the oldest known English drinking glass in existence, made in 1377 by an immigrant Venetian, Jacob Verzellini. The goblet is not whole, because its stem is broken off and was replaced, sometime in the seventeenth century, by a pearwood foot with a narrow silver rim. The bowl is original, however, and bears the date, 1577, engraved in diamond point on one side. On the other side are the initials B. J. and L. B., which leads antiquarians to believe it was originally manufactured to commemorate a wedding. Likewise engraved in diamond point are two hands, one on each side of the goblet, pursuing respectively a stag and a unicorn.—New York Herald Tribune.

When the United Nations reviews the Palestine problem the world will be able to pay tribute to the forgotten Tommy Atkins and his misunderstood and thankless task. There are many aspects of this policy in Palestine which call less for a man for sympathy and understanding.—Winnipeg Free Press.

An unwise haste to build up German industry for the benefits American and Britain can reap from it might prove a deadly miscalculation. Until sufficient political safeguards are made to protect against a resurgent German nationalism the impatient victors cannot afford to grab for plums of victory that might easily turn out to be grapes of wrath. They may have to pay for peace out of their own pockets if it proves impractical to adopt Mr. Hoover's suggestion that these expenditures be made a "first charge" on the German economy, to be repaid from future German exports "before any payments to other nations of any kind." Remaking a dangerous enemy into a safe friend is bound to be an expensive business. But it is long-term economy.—Christian Science Monitor.

Wearing badges of honor which have not been earned is evidence of a strange perversity in human nature. It is impossible to understand the type of person who would thus attempt to sail under false colors, but they always exist. They are the individuals who make it profitable to make and sell counterfeit sets of the buttons which are supposed to signify service in the armed forces during the last war. The Canadian Legion complains of this particularly shameful black market. Its protest is justified. Here is a matter in which the authorities should interest themselves. It is admittedly difficult to check up on all wearers of the maple leaf badge, but it should be comparatively simple to control manufacture and sale. Stiff penalties should be handed out for such nefarious traffic.—Windsor Star.

The Poet's Corner

FORECAST

Spring will come again in its leafy way; The hands move across the dial. And stumbling feet of wretched men Move on each diurnal mile.

Some raise their eyes to Paradise, And some to vacant space; The global roads are clogged with folk Who creep at faltering pace.

Would that there were a spring in human life As ever is in trees and fields, When old decays, and new comes in, And stubborn winter yields.

Perhaps the east will glow again, And, as from Palomar, The watcher's eager searching eye Discern a far-off star.

Some nearing radiance to flood the world, So purblind men may see A guiding beam, as bright as that That shone on Galilee.

Yet, once again the spring will come: Once more the veil be drawn, And Hope arise from off her couch And tie her sandals on.

—Rollin Kirby in New York Times.

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

SSIDE INCORPORATION BILL

From Debates and Proceedings in the House of Assembly, 1874. On a motion to consider a petition for a bill to incorporate the Town of Summerside.

Mr. T. Kelly said he was not personally anxious that the prayer of the petition should be complied with, so scarcely any of the names of the mechanics and laborers of Summerside were attached to the petition. Mr. L. H. Davies said the petitioners wished to have the advantage of a law to regulate the town, and it was not right that they should suffer from the indifference of so many of the town's folk. He thought the petition should be referred to a special committee to bring in a bill.

Dr. Jenkins said that the people of Charlottetown had a bitter experience of municipalities, and if the Summerside people had a little of it, they would not be in such a hurry to incorporate that town.

Mr. Speaker had been informed that only £200 out of the revenue of £1,800 had been expended in Charlottetown in working expenses. Supposing the same system were established in Summerside, what would be the result? The people would have few public improvements to show for the taxes they paid. He was of opinion that the people of that town did not require the change. A little fighting might occasionally take place among rowdies; but there was to be a new jail erected there, and if a person placed in authority had a few constables whom he could call up in an emergency, it would be all that was required.

Mr. Colbeck said that although the corporation of Charlottetown had not come up to the expectations of the citizens, he for one would be sorry to return to the old system. Before the City was incorporated there would be no rowdism could be seen in its streets in one hour, than could now be seen in a month. Summerside was being built up with wooden buildings, and provision should be made that its streets should be built straight and wide, at the outset.

Mr. Speaker had been a good deal in Summerside, but he had never seen much rowdism there. Probably the great temperance movement would entirely cure the evil of drunkenness, and thus put an end to broils and quarrels.

Hon. J. Arsenault said he thought it very necessary that Summerside should be incorporated, as there would be no constable or Justice of the Peace whose special duty was to maintain order in the place. What was everybody's business was nobody's. In front of the shippers, the streets were blockaded with pieces of timber, and sleighs could not pass each other at those places, in the winter season. There should be some regulations to prevent the streets being obstructed, and also to maintain good order at all times. The townspeople were wealthy enough to maintain an efficient staff of officers, whose duty it should be to attend to these matters. At present the place had no kind of government whatever, and if it existed in the United States it would be pronounced outside the pale of civilization.

Children's Own Theatre Just outside London there's a place called Lewisham which has a big modern Town Hall holding at least 2,000 people. Recently that Town Hall was completely filled by an audience which had come to see an ambitious program of dance and music acted by children. You could have heard a pin drop during each act and no opera star at the Metropolitan could have wished for greater applause than greeted the children at the end of the show!

This first post-war pageant of drama arranged by the British Children's Theatre Guild was really impressive. The Children's Theatre Guild was actually founded in 1908 with the main idea of having for children, a theatre they could call their very own where they could not only act and sing and dance but where they could have practical dealings with all the technical

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