

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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The Maritime Commission

Transport Minister Howe's announcement of the Government's intention to establish a Maritime Commission has aroused a great deal of interest and expectation.

Its establishment will mean that shippers and exporters can present their problems to a central authority. Canadian products will be sold at a firm price laid down destination.

In 1938, Canadian registered ships moved 12 1/2% of the cargo entered and cleared at Canadian ports; in 1946, 61%.

According to the Financial Post, the new commission, as in the case of the Air Transport Board, is a compromise.

Chief job of the new commission will be to advise and determine policy in respect of shipping routes, subsidies, strategic matters, and in relation to the merchant services.

Canada spent a total of \$626.9 millions on construction of 446 merchant vessels during the war, Reconstruction Minister C. D. Howe declared, as he moved for appointment of a Maritime Commission to regulate shipping in future.

Old Age Pensions

As was probably expected, the Federal Government's proposal to increase pensions to the aged and blind by five dollars monthly has received more verbal brickbats than bouquets, both in Parliament and in the Press.

The projected rise in the allowance to these pensioners certainly falls far short of the realm of generosity, in fact it more closely resembles in size a forced handout to poor relations than recognition of equitable compensation to those in advanced years and the afflicted to help them meet the higher living costs that have of late rapidly ascended.

Actually what the increase amounts to in assisting the pensioner to defray his or her daily cost of subsistence is a fraction over 16 cents. On a percentage basis it represents a rise of 20 per cent over the maximum old age pension of \$25, which is marked contrast to the self-applied generosity of the parliamentarians who about two years ago increased their own emolument by \$2,000 a year—a 50 per cent boost—and made it free from income tax levy.

The pensioners in Prince Edward Island, as well as New Brunswick and Quebec, are not as well off as are those in the other six provinces for they never have received any supplementary grant from the provincial government to assist in meeting the heavier living costs.

Meanwhile, however, while the bill is being debated, it is to be hoped that the Dominion Government will give serious consideration to the numerous suggestions from many parliamentarians as well as the large number of individuals and organizations outside the House to further increase the projected \$5 raise to a higher level.

Summing It Up

The Niagara Bill incident is thus neatly summed up by the Ottawa Journal: "The Niagara Falls Bridge Commission, deciding to have a carillon at the Rainbow Bridge at Niagara Falls, put the following inscription on the master bell: 'To God's glory and in grateful memory of our nation's leaders, Winston Spencer Churchill and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.'"

"Members of the Dominion Cabinet, hearing of this inscription, and considering it 'an affront to the Prime Minister of Canada' (Mr. Chevrier's words), intervened to have the names

of Churchill and Roosevelt removed. "During the war, Mr. King saw Canada's War Finance Committee, of which his own Finance Minister was a member, put out a War Loan poster with pictures of Churchill and Roosevelt, and captioned 'Our Great War Leaders.' What Mr. King thought or said about this (it carried certain implications that he could not have liked), we do not know. It is possible that what he thought and said explains the touchiness of his colleagues over the implications of the Churchill-Roosevelt inscription on the Niagara bell.

"Their touchiness, unfortunately, hardly excuses their resulting bad-manners. Whoever was responsible for the Roosevelt-Churchill inscription was consciously or unconsciously rude, guilty of bungling. But two wrongs don't make a right, and once the inscription was on the bell we think it should have remained there. Certainly the spectacle of members of the Government of Canada rushing in to have the name of Winston Churchill stricken from a bell is hardly the sort of thing to make anybody admire them, and we don't think it will much enhance the name and fame of Mr. King, nor alter in the least what history will say of him. All the thing tells, as most people will see it, is that some of our public men never seem to grow up."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Canada is increasing her export of poultry to Britain, but decreasing her bacon.

Fredericton, N. B., intends celebrating the centennial of its incorporation during the week of July 26 to 31, 1948.

Mr. MacNaught, M.P., expresses the general opinion here that union of Newfoundland with Canada would be beneficial to both.

Visiting clergymen from Europe for the Marian Conference have been amazed at the quantity of food and clothing available in this country.

We quote without comment the agony columns of The Times: "Six-foot gentleman waist, alas, 47 inches but chest ditto, with wardrobe blitzed and no coupons, wishes to buy from private source used upper and under clothes in good state for morning, evening, riding and country wear."

H. R. H. the Duke of Windsor, elder brother of the King, born this date 1894; he succeeded to the throne on the death of his father, George V, as Edward VIII on January 20, 1936, and eleven months later abdicated, December 11, 1936, in order to marry Mrs. Wallis Warfield, an American lady whom he originally met at a dance in New York. He has since resided abroad, and was for five years of the War Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Bahamas Islands, 1940-45. At present he and the Duchess are in France.

It is customary to assume that Bernard Shaw is regardless of religion, but that is not so. Interviewed by an American newspaperman the other day he said: "There is nothing that people will not believe nowadays if only it be presented to them as science, and nothing they will not believe if it be presented to them as religion. I myself began like that; and I am ending by receiving every scientific statement with doubt and suspicion while giving very respectful consideration to the inspiration and revelations of prophets and poets."

Regret is felt in the business community at the retirement of Mr. W. R. Adams, manager of the city branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia. He has had long and meritorious service with the Bank, and since coming here has earned the confidence, respect and esteem of his many patrons. May he have long and enjoyable retirement in this beautiful City of his adoption. His successor, Mr. T. H. Mitchell, a native of Leith, Scotland, is welcomed, and no doubt will soon make his presence felt as a leading banker and man of affairs in our midst.

Six years ago yesterday on June 22, 1941, Germany launched her invasion of the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom welcomed the respite the move afforded the British people. Striking while the iron was hot, Britain immediately stepped up her air raids on Germany and German-occupied territory until it was apparent that the full-scale attack had reached a pitch as drastic as anything Britain had suffered at German hands. On June 24, the United Kingdom and Russia agreed to fight the Germans as partners.

Flour millers are studying a new way of making flour that dispenses with millstones and rollers. The new process is called "explosive dissociation." Wheat is placed in a metal cylinder. An air compressor puts the grain under pressure and compressed air fills the tiny pockets in the grain. A valve is turned and the wheat shoots out through a small nozzle. This releases the pressure of the air within the grain instantaneously and the kernels are blasted apart, explains Business Week. This "blasted" mixture can be segregated. Leading milling firms in the United States and Canada see possibilities in the process and are investigating.

The silver content of Australian coinage is to be reduced from 92 1/2 per cent to 50 per cent fine silver. Announcing this, the Prime Minister, Mr. Chifley, said the reason for reduction was the sharp increase in the price of silver since the war, due to action taken in the United States to raise the price of silver. A reduction in the silver content of Australian coinage will enable that country to build up the 11,000,000 oz. which they obtained from the United States during the war. Annual production of silver in Australia is approximately 5% of the world's output. Even so, Australia ranks fifth on the list of producing countries.

Notes By the Way

In view of Russia's looting policy, the free world can take some comfort from the fact that skill cannot be stolen along with machines. — Toronto Telegram.

No garden can be complete without a bird bath. It doesn't need to be fancy. An old pan, deep enough of course tacked to a tree stump, or even hanging precariously to a pole, fills the bill perfectly. Or you can make your own, if you're handy with cement, and if you are, all sorts of fancy designs are possible. But definitely the garden should have a bird bath, or perhaps two. — Vancouver News-Herald.

A member of the Presidential entourage on the occasion of Mr. and Mrs. Truman's visit to Ottawa, has given out an interesting item of information. Just before leaving Washington, Mrs. Truman thought her destination was Toronto, and that the Queen City was the Capital of Canada. The reading of light literature was probably responsible for this erroneous impression. One of the Toronto dailies is known to have quite a circulation across the border. — Sydney Post-Record.

The average head of a family is faced with so many demands up to the age of 55 that he has little chance to put aside any sizable amount. After that age his sons and daughters are usually on their own. However, his income tax payments then increase because he no longer has dependents. Thus his efforts to build up a fund against his retirement are more or less neutralized. The prospect of going on old-age pension or living on the partial charity of relatives after a lifetime of work is not a pleasant one. — Winnipeg Tribune.

A young man once found a \$2 bill in the road. From that time on, he never lifted his eyes from the ground, says The Santa Fe Magazine. In the course of 40 years, he accumulated 29,516 buttons, 52,172 pins, seven pens, a bent back and a miserly disposition. He lost the glories of the night, the smiles of his friends, the songs of birds, the beauties of Nature and opportunity to serve his fellow man and spread happiness. — Exchange.

The Wells, Me, Justice of the peace who declined to perform the marriage ceremony for a couple and only in bathing suits chafed the proper attitude of respect for the holy institution of wedlock. He admits himself that he would probably never have received such a request had it not been for the publicity attending his marriage of a couple on horseback. How can the young folk we worry about feel respect for their elders when they see them engage in such freakish travesties of God's noblest institution? To be lived in dignity, let marriages be started in dignity, and with all respect. — Boston Post.

We view with sombre misgivings the report of the Forest Insects Investigations Section of the Division of Entomology of the Department of Agriculture that birch trees are dying off. Because to us — although the maple tree has it by statute — the birch tree is as truly Canadian as anything you could possibly find, including the beaver or succotash or a conscription controversy. That it grows almost everywhere in the world is all right with us in an era of broadening aspects. It is nature's gift to romance and childhood. It talks quietly to the moon and to the cool waters of our northern lakes and it provides a scented parchment in bark that can start better grass fires than the most highly-touted substitutes available to the young. — Hamilton Spectator.

One day Charles Hanson Towne knocked at the door of John Masefield's simple cottage, and after an exceedingly long interval of waiting, was greeted by a pretty little maid in a tiny white cap. He told her he was a visitor from America who would like to pay his respects to the poet. "Please step in," she said, and soon Mr. Masefield was making him most welcome. At the conclusion of the interview, Towne said, "Mr. Masefield, may I write something for our magazine about this visit?" "Certainly," agreed the poet. "But please do not forget to send me a copy of it." Towne promised to remember, and kept his word. "Mrs. Masefield and I are happy you mentioned the trim little maid," the poet acknowledged, "but I am obliged to make a confession: We have no maid. That was our daughter. In case you wonder at her delay in coming to the door, you will now know that it was occasioned by the fact that she was improving that tiny white cap you liked so well." — Wall Street Journal.

Orange salesmen are staggering into a tightfisted Summer market with one of the biggest loads they've ever had. Between now and next November, California's groves will pour out 34 million boxes of Valencia, the Summer variety. That's 28 per cent more than last year and second only to the 1945 record of 38.4 million boxes. Across the continent, this has been Florida's biggest year. When the crop year ends next October 31, the Government estimates, total U.S. orange production will have reached 115 million boxes, 15 million more than in 1945-46. The whopper output plus public purse-tightening already is depressing prices. Grocers in major cities over the country report California oranges have dropped 75 cents to \$2 a box in the last two weeks. Florida fruit has dipped 25 to 50 cents a box. Prices in the packing sheds now are down to only a few cents more than previous averages. — From Wall Street Journal.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

Sir—After listening to a number of radio speeches and reading the articles of several of your correspondents in this column on the subject of High School Education, P.W.C. Entrance Examinations, two years at P.W.C. versus one year in Grade XI for Junior Matriculation, Composite High Schools, Common Examining Board Examinations, etc., I began to wonder why there should be such a general lack of knowledge concerning education in this Province. Several of your correspondents denounce the P.W.C. Entrance Examinations and at the same time extol to the Heavens the Common Examining Board (entrance) Examinations of Grade XI, even though the latter are generally considered not satisfactory by really competent authorities. Is this attitude logical in view of the fact that both sets of examinations are based on the work covered by the pupils of Grades X and XI as the case may be? After all, the teaching of the work assigned has been done well, there should be no fear of an outside examination. In fact, almost any pupil of average ability who has been inspired by his teachers or by his parents to love the pursuit of knowledge need have no fear of passing the P.W.C. entrance examinations. It is understood that, after the announcement early this year that Grade X pupils of Charlottetown would not be required to write the P.W.C. entrance examinations, there was an immediate "let-down" in the work being done by these pupils. Is it true that for this reason the principal of one of the city schools requested the Charlottetown School Board to try and get the educational authorities to rescind their ruling on this point? The ruling was later revoked by the Minister, Why?

Old Charlottetown

(And P.E.I.)

FIRST INOCULATIONS?

"Persons desirous of having the cow-pox, may be inoculated by calling upon Dr. De St. Croix at his house in Charlottetown, on Saturday the 30th inst., as the doctor will then have a large supply of matter. Applicants may rest assured of not being disappointed." — P. E. Island Register, July 22, 1825.

When Agate first began his career at the Manchester Guardian, he wrote his reviews the night before the play. He only went to the theatre to see if his epigrams needed to be changed. Many actors who have been stung by his sarcasm must regret that he abandoned this practice. But the change was skin deep. Agate was always as interested in himself as in the actors, and certainly his interest in the author, except Shakespeare, was far from keen. Criticism, for Agate, was rarely a contribution to the principles of art. It was an experiment in autobiography — witty, piquant, magnificent.

There is one passage, not about the theatre, that Agate loved above all else. It shows him at his best as a writer and as a man. My reverence for the common soldier exceeds all bounds. Yesterday a man died in my ward whom in ordinary times one would have dismissed as a drunkard and a leecher. I am not content with these old classifications; I am not content with the future life of this soldier which I shall be all Michael Angelo and Sebastian Bach. There must be a paradise for the simpletons as for the picked spirits. I am not content with a roll-call of the illustrious dead who shall arise to greet the coming of our latter-day heroes — great Edward and great Harry, the swinging Elizabethan blade, business-like Roundhead and inefficient Cavalier. I am not content though Nelson return a millionfold the kiss he received from Hardy. I want a Valhalla which shall not be a palace, but a home. I think I could trust Lamb to make a sufficient welcome, though it is to Falstaff I should look to discourse of honor in a strain bearable to soldier ears. Nectar and ambrosia may be good taking, but there must be a familiar grog and laughter and good fellowship. I want a heaven in which horses shall be run, and the laying of odds allowed a sinless occupation. I want to see Sayers and Heenan fight it out again, to roar at Dan Leno, to watch old Grace till the shadows grow long.

A Great Critic

(By M.P. in Washington Free Press) So James Agate is dead. Even at this distance it is easy to imagine the stir in England at the news. Agate said he was the finest critic of the English stage since the days of Leigh Hunt, whose forgotten genius he did so much to make known to our age. That may be a claim which time will refuse to ratify. But there is little doubt that he has been for at least twenty years the most widely read and influential critic in Great Britain. His range was remarkable. In the Sunday Times he wrote dramatic criticisms whose learning, wit and eloquence gave him a world-wide audience. For Beaverbrook's paper of mass circulation, the Daily Express, he wrote about

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The Poets Corner FROM "KING RICHARD THE SECOND" O! who can hold a fire in his hand By thinking on the frosty Caucasus? Or cloy the hungry edge of appetite By bare imagination of a feast? Or wallow naked in December snow By thinking on fantastic summer's heat? O, no! the apprehension of the good Gives but the greater feeling to Fell sorrow's tooth doth never rankle more Than when it bites, but lanceth not the sore. —Shakespeare.

Whitehall Notebook By James McCook Canadian Press Staff Writer London

British Parliamentarians laugh a hollow laugh when asked whether Parliament is safeguarding old traditions. They say the real question is whether traditions are safeguarding Parliament. In Britain, traditions last forever but Parliaments only come and go. Take the privileges held by the free miners of the Royal Forest of Dean, a wooded area between the Severn and Wye rivers in Southern England. Such privileges are forgotten until something comes along like coal nationalization when authorities find they have to give special consideration to groups of people they had never heard of.

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