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

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 1948

Freight Rates Increase

Commenting on the Transport Board's decision authorizing a 21 per cent increase in freight rates, the *Winnipeg Free Press* says:

The Canadian Pacific is accepted as the yardstick by which the needs of the railways for revenue are to be measured. On this basis the Transport Board, it seems, has arrived at its judgment by calculating the assumed needs of the C.P.R. against its gross revenues in 1947. The gap is placed at $30 millions and the gross revenues against which an increase in rates would apply are put at $137 millions. The 21 per cent, presumably, is calculated as an increase in rates on $137 millions of business which would give the company $27 millions more revenue per year. The additional $3 millions needed to bring the total to $30 millions will be picked up from higher specific rates on coal and coke and lesser items.

Applied to the Canadian National which has much more mileage and does a larger business, the 21 per cent increase is calculated to add $40 millions of revenue.

The extent to which this decision is based upon the estimates presented to the board during the hearings by officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway is a matter of interest. The board finds that the Canadian Pacific requires $30 millions more revenue. This is just a little less than the amount by which the experts of the Canadian Pacific under-estimated the revenues of the system in 1947. During the rate hearings they estimated 1947 revenues at $285 millions whereas the actual total as announced by the C. P. R. on March 9 was $318 millions. The difference between the actual revenues of the C.P.R. and the total of $130 millions, cited by the board, is due to the fact that much freight traffic moves under statutory rates (grain and flour) or competitive rates and will not be affected by an increase in rates.

The point, however, is clear. The Transport Board in its judgment finds that the Canadian Pacific Railway needs $30 millions additional revenue. Yet the Canadian Pacific in its annual report early this month showed earnings at almost a peak. Only once before did the railways do better and then only slightly. Net earnings were $22 millions and other income brought the total up to $47.6 millions. After fixed charges and dividends, the company added $20 millions to profit and loss account, bringing that account to $279 millions. A company which in 1947 increased its gross by $26 millions over 1946; its net by $4 millions; reduced its fixed charges by $2.7 millions; had sufficient earnings to cover the fixed charge three times over—this company is now deemed so perilously placed as to require another $30 millions of revenue out of the public's pocket.

The *Free Press* emphasizes that the Transport Board is not a court, nor are its decisions final either as to law or facts. It is but a commission to which is delegated the rate-making functions of the Dominion Government. The Government's statutory authority to reverse the decisions of the Transport Board has been, on more occasions than one, of signal service. This is a fact which Provincial governments should not overlook in considering the course of action now to be followed.

Cash-And-Carry Education

The following comment from an article in the *Saturday Review of Literature* indicates a trend which is becoming all too evident in Canada as well as in the neighboring Republic:

"Contemporary education has to a large extent plowed under the classic past. More than being dead, Latin and Greek have become buried languages. Our educators have seen to that. They have wanted to make education "popular" and sought to have it practical. It's too hard trying to keep up with our own appaling times to bother about the remote past.

"Did a knowledge of Xenophon or Juvenal ever turn a soda-jerker into a tycoon? The point of modern education in America is usefulness, not culture. If it aids in gaining profitable employment, it can skip interior richness. The result must be of an immediate cash-and-carry kind. Moreover, everything must be made as easy as possible. The motto of the so-called progressives is, apparently, spare the whim and spoil the child. Hence no brambles along the path. No disciplined marching. No steep cliffs to climb. Just a level and fairly straight highway (macadamed, of course) leading to a job."

Seed Potato-Production

Production of certified seed potatoes in Canada in 1947 amounted to 11,747,000 bushels, or an increase of almost a million bushels over 1946, and over five million bushels more than in 1945. All provinces except Nova Scotia and Quebec produced more seed in 1947 than in 1946. British Columbia moved up from sixth place in production in 1946 to third place in 1947, exceeded only by Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

The greatest increase by varieties was shown in Katahdins, with a production of 3,387,700 bushels in 1947. This represented an increase of 30.7 per cent over 1946. White Rose showed an increase of 25.7 per cent, or a total of 92,100 bushels, practically all of which occurred in British Columbia.

Production of the remaining popular varieties was as follows: Green Mountain 3,387,700 bushels; Irish Cobbler 2,392,300 bushels; Sebago 1,423,000 bushels; Netted Gem 463,100 bushels, and Bliss Triumph 421,500 bushels. There were an additional 49 varieties inspected which produced from 65,000 bushels to as low as 5 bushels in the case of some of the newer varieties being tested for disease resistance.

Sales of certified seed from the 1947 crop at December 31, show an increase of approximately 700,000 bushels over December 31, 1946. Shipments to Argentina were increased by over 650,000 bushels. British Columbia shipped over 51,000 bushels of White Rose to Argentina, which is reported as arriving in excellent condition. The potato shipping season at the port of Saint John was one of the busiest on record, with as many as three vessels loading at the same time.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Quite a lot of Spring sickness is prevalent, colds, sinus, arthritis, heart weakness, and, alas, sudden death.

* * * *

Few things so readily reflect changing ideas and events as does the naming of children. An extreme example, perhaps, is that of an Arab mother in Jerusalem who has named her twin boys Bren and Tommy.

* * * *

The passport frauds case now being tried in the Old Country indicate that getting into this country is a matter of some difficulty. So much so that there is a ready market even for forged papers that will permit the alien at great risk to enter as a British subject.

* * * *

Finance Minister Abbott's change in terminology, referring to the present situation as a boom rather than as inflation does not change the economic picture. It does, however, indicate that the Liberal Government now wants people to get in a happier mood about internal conditions.

* * * *

Dorothy Thompson, whose opinion on world affairs is well worth regarding, believes that Russia is already waging for the domination of the world, though not the old fashioned slugging war. She describes Henry Wallace as Russia's atomic bomb in the U. S.

* * * *

There seems to be considerable variation of opinion as to Canada's supply of educated young men. Some experts claim that we are turning out more than the country can absorb, but at the same time the army finds it necessary to reduce its educational qualifications for enlistment.

* * * *

Unquestionably "big business" is behind the agitation for the importation of margarine. It began in the German manufacturing section of Ontario, and has been pushed for all its worth in most industrial centres. Only the fear of the farmers' reaction at election prevents the Government capitulating right away to the party money-bags.

* * * *

The world's leading bicycle exporting nation is Britain. In 1947, exports of bicycles from the United Kingdom totalled 1,449,662 out of a total production of 2,489,929 (including 34,476 juvenile bicycles and 189,910 tricycles). This means that on an average a minimum of ten bicycles were exported every minute of every 8-hour working day from United Kingdom ports (excluding Sundays and holidays). On the same basis of calculation, 8,300 bicycles are made every day in Britain's factories—or 17 every minute.

* * * *

Laura, wife of Hugues de Sade, died this date, 1348, this being her centenary. The Italian poet Petrarch was her Platonic lover, and his fame as a lyric poet rests on *Canjoniere*, sonnets to this lady, and whose death he laments in his *In Morti di Madonna Laura*, the lyrical story of one of the great loves of the world's literature: "To be able to say how much you love is to love but little"

"Yon nightingale, whose strain so sweetly flows,
Mourning her ravish'd young or much-lov'd mate,
A soothing charm o'er all the valleys throws
And skies, with notes well tuned to her sad state."

* * * *

On All Fools Day the youngest member of the Nova Scotia Legislature flagrantly "defied the King" in the Legislature. Mr. Henry Hicks (L—Annapolis), 33, when interviewed on his conduct, said he was merely demonstrating an "ancient constitutional right" when he sat through the session without removing his beaver-skin hat. He explained that a 13th century edict allowed him to wear, with impunity, any headgear he chose—as long as he abstained from prayers or addressing the House. No one disputed his privilege. It used to be a common practice in our own Legislature for members to sit "hatted", for two good and sufficient reasons, in the old bowler hat days it was risky leaving ones headgear on a chair; and then again, before steam-heating, to wear one's hat in the Chamber was a safeguard against cold.

* * * *

The First Canadian Army, which fought so courageously and efficiently in Northwest Europe, was formed in England on April 6, 1942, exactly six years ago tomorrow. . . . Three years ago, on April 8, 1945, Canadian airborne troops dropped east of the Zuider Zee and on April 9 the First Canadian Army crossed the Ems at Neppen. Thirty-one years ago, during four days of bitter fighting in France in the First World War, four Canadians serving with the Canadian Expeditionary Force won the Victoria Cross for extreme bravery in action. The men, and the dates of their awards were, Pte. W. J. Milne, 16th Bn., April 9, 1917; L/Sgt. E. W. Sifton, 18th Bn., April 9, 1917; Pte. J. G. Pattison, 50th Bn., April 10, 1917, and Capt. T. W. MacDowell, 38th Bn., whose citation covered the period 9-13 April, 1917. Awards to Milne and Sifton were made posthumously.

-Notes By The Way-

"Hotel Man Says Too Many People Give Tips as Bribes Instead of for Prompt Service." Others think of them as pure and abject appeasement.— Sault Ste. Marie Star.

The last two Great Wars broke out after the harvest in Europe had been garnered. That should minimize the present scare of immediate war to some degree. —St. Catharines Standard.

The Moslems and Hindus asked for the privileges of self-government. Now they must show they are equal to the duties. They have to prove that they are fit for freedom not only by the way they fulfil their own political hopes but also, and even more important, by the manner in which they deal with minority groups in the two new Dominions. — Winnipeg Free Press.

The Ontario Hog Producers passed a resolution this week for "a complete study of the possibilities of having the marketing scheme extended to include control of retail pork prices." At the same meeting producers were beefing about "regimentation." Agricultural organizations must realize that the more boards and controls set up, the greater the regimentation will be. They can't have it both ways —Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

Dr. Uhrich was born at For-mosa, Ont. His father was an Alsatian and his mother Canadian, thus he becomes the second lieutenant-governor of other than Anglo-Saxon descent, to hold office in Saskatchewan. The first lieutenant-governor of the province was Hon. A. E. Forget, who was of French descent. Dr. Uhrich's appointment will prove especially gratifying to the large numbers among the population of this province who trace their lineage to continental European countries. — Regina Leader-Post.

Mr. J. E. Rutledge, Member for Halifax Centre, provided serious food for thought when he proposed in the Legislature last Tuesday that, if Scottish immigrants were to be sought for Nova Scotia, some of them at least should be such as are skilled in textiles, so that a textile industry might be created once again in the province. Hand-weaving is rapidly becoming an important craft in Nova Scotia. The quality of the goods produced by local weavers is worthy of comparison with anything that ever came out of the Hebrides. Anything that will increase the number of skilled workers in this craft must be for the general good. —Halifax Chronicle.

Tilting the quintain was a popu-lar sport for horsemen in the Middle Ages. Before long it may be an attraction at gymkhanas and horse fairs in Northern Australia. On the village green at Offham, Kent, is Britain's last quintain, and the chairman of the parish council has had a letter from Mr. Geoff. H. Jowart, of Australia, asking for full constructional details. The quintain consists of a post with crosspiece on a swivel. Attached to one end of the crosspiece is a sandbag. A horseman rides up to the post and tilts with his lance at the other end. If he is too slow the crosspiece swings around and the sandbag hits him —London Daily Mail.

Spring tells the world: "Wake up!" Poets are stirred to voice the same idea, in a general way, though not so effectively. Spring does something for practically everyone —as it was intended to do. It is nature's promissory note. Spring on the land is the beautiful stage setting for the action of human aspiration in steady conflict with earthly vicissitude. Life is a play that must go to its inevitable climax of eternal destiny. Spring may mean less to the young and well and untroubled than to the ill, the aging and harried, as spectators of its unfolding pageant. The strongest impression of Spring is its invariable recurrence, its perhaps delayed but never-failing certainty. It is the triumphant overtone of human existence. — Calgary Albertan.

Australia has instituted a scheme that should have been adopted in Canada generations ago —a course of instruction, among European immigrants, on Australia. The newcomers are being taught many things about the Commonwealth that should help them to become good Australians. The greatest defect in Canada's immigration policy is that the Government has brought in thousands of people from Europe, dumped them in some part of the country and then left them pretty much to their own devices. The result has been the establishment of a large number of foreign communities. In some of these the native tongue is the only language used and in many there is little knowledge of or respect for Canada and its institutions. There are thousands of fine Canadians among these foreign people, sturdy and hard-working folk loyal to the principles of their adopted land but they have become so largely through their own determined initiative. We are bringing in European immigrants in fairly large numbers, and with the Canadian Citizenship Act in force should be able to make that act mean something. We have neglected to do the right thing by the settlers we have induced to settle here. We should rectify that by giving the newcomers a course on how to become good Canadians. A virile Canadianism is one of Canada's great needs. — Vancouver Province.

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.

DOMINION - PROVINCIAL TAXATION

Sir,—Ever since the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario refused to enter into an agreement with the Federal government in respect to taxation, we have had sporadic outbursts of reciprocal name-calling.

These outbursts on the part of high officials of both the Federal and Provincial governments do not in the least harm the respective officials, but, invariably result in new, additional or higher taxes, or a combination of them being imposed on the people. The men and women of Canada, as you know, are neither federal nor provincial Canadians, but simply Canadians.

If only, say, the Dominion Cabinet, as a penalty for its stubbornness or recalcitrant attitude, could impose a new, additional or higher tax on the respective provincial Cabinet, or vice-versa, the matter would be quickly adjusted, but such is not the case: the people themselves bear the brunt of this unnecessary squabble.

I say unnecessary, because the so-called constitutional difficulty can be straightened out, but not under the aegis of the statute which governs Canada today. I refer to the British North America Act.

Under that Act, in the matter of taxation, the Dominion Government yields the big stick: it can legally do so, and it does. On the other hand, the Provinces, under the same Act, are in a very subordinate and unenviable position, insofar as taxation is concerned.

Under the Act of 1867, all the Dominion had to pay to the original Provinces was as follows: yearly, for the support of their governments and legislatures, $80,000 to Ontario, $70,000 to Quebec, $60,000 to Nova Scotia; $50,000 to New Brunswick and an annual grant in aid of each Province equal to .80c per head of the population, as ascertained by the proper census. Note the law, which is still the law today: "Such grant shall be in full settlement of all future demands on Canada."

There was a revision of these yearly payments for the support of the governments and legislatures in 1907, and the principle of automatic increase in relation to growth of population was incorporated.

The Provinces claim — and justly so— that it is still inadequate.

Permit me to give you, without comment a brief extract from the report of the Duncan Commission, re Maritime Claims, issued in 1926 page 12:

"In 1867 the grants given for the support of provincial governments and legislatures were (within certain limits) of a fixed amount, and were not on a scale that increased with the increase of population or the expansion of Dominion income. It was, apparently, an accepted theory of those times that the functions of government (provincial, of course) should be limited to a minimum. The Dominion intended that the Provinces should not make a gain out of their grant and should be discouraged from over-spending. It was felt that if they had to fall back upon their own people for additional revenue, in the event of over-spending, there would be an effective check upon them. So much of deliberate intention on the part of the Dominion is to be gathered from the records of the time. The policy may have been a wise one, but it clearly was too rigid and inelastic when we bear in mind the development which has taken place in the intervening years in the conception of the machinery and functions of government."

The Provinces require money for social services and other provincial needs.

May I most respectfully suggest that the Provinces cannot expect a solution of their grievance, in that respect, either by name-calling, or by making periodic pilgrimages to Canossa, or even by temporary 'quid pro quo' agreements. In connection with the latter, the provinces may be reminded of the old adage: **Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes.**

There is one way in which this most unhealthy situation of the body politic of Canada can be solved in a manner which will quieten disputes for all times to come: let the people of the Provinces of Canada call a Constituent Assembly, let the Constituent Assembly resolve this and all other multifarious problems which confront us today, including provincial, inter-provincial and Dominion-provincial relations. Let the Constituent Assembly write a constitution for Canada.

I am, Sir, etc.,
JOHN FENSTON, LL.B.
Montreal.

Pessimism At Ottawa

(The Letter Review)

Pessimism at Ottawa is now deep and dark blue. It goes to the point of suggesting that any hope of European recovery, particularly in Britain, is to be abandoned; that Canada must join with the United States and South America in an isolationist programme.

Why South America has to be brought in, it is difficult to see. It will take decades to build enough trade with that Continent to replace trade with Europe, and most of South America is farther away from Canada than is Western Europe, but the South American story was started during the war and it refuses to die.

The alarmists are right enough in pointing to the danger which faces us, but they are as wrong in how to meet it now as they were when the same people argued, in 1939 and the early part of 1940, that this country could bear its share of the Second World War by contributing one division of infantry.

The Ottawa picture is simply that the Government politicians have pulled all the rabbits out of all the hats, and now incline to throw up their hands, in preference to facing the troubles made so much worse by their mistaken policies.

The effect of this pessimism on Government policy is very serious. The critical need for an immediate increased credit to Britain is a case. The advisers of the Government hesitate to admit that they were wrong in recommending a promise that no more credit would be extended, while the force of circumstances makes new credit absolutely essential.

The British Government does not do much to help the Canadian Government to meet the difficulty of selling the idea of another credit to the Canadian people.

British officials insist that all their plans are working beautifully but then turn round and argue that Canada should help more.

Rt. Hon. J. Strachey, for example, told the British Commons that Canada would simply have to do something, or Britain would have to buy food from other countries, with a bad effect on Canada and Britain. Quite true, this statement was indiscreet: gave the impression of a sort of threat, in which the British Government is in no position to indulge.

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

FREDERICTON. —(CP)— New Brunswick has launched a three to five year program of research into the merits of practical education for young people from grade seven up. Object of the project is to discover why a large portion of young students fail to complete courses started after the seventh grade.

The Poet's Corner

FROM: THE HOUSE BEAUTIFUL

A naked house, a naked moor,
A shivering pool before the door,
A garden bare of flowers and fruit,
And poplars at the garden foot:
Such is the place that I live in,
Bleak without and bare within.

Yet shall your rugged moor receive
The incomparable pomp of eve,
And the cold glories of the dawn
Behind your shivering trees be drawn;
And when the wind from place to place
Doth the unmoored cloud-galleon chase,

Your garden gloom and gleam again,
With leaping sun, with glancing rain.
Here shall the wizard moon ascend
The heavens, in the crimson end
Of day's declining splendor: here
The army of the stars appear.

—R. L. Stevenson.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

MOCCASINED ISLANDERS

"Being all ready on 18th. April on board the Brig Diana of Dumfries, we sailed next morning at four o'clock, from the foot of the river Nith. All the passengers forty-five in number, later became more or less seasick. On the 28th day we saw American land, supposedly the south side of Cape Breton, but the fog was so thick we could only discern the shore, and had to stand out to sea and steer backwards and forwards on the Banks of Newfoundland for eight days. When it cleared, passing Cape North, we entered the Gulf of St. Lawrence. On Friday morning we made Prince Edward Island about nine o'clock, rising like a dark cloud from the bosom of the ocean.

"Approaching the shore we discovered little clearances here and there, next the houses. About three o'clock we were so near as to require a pilot. Three young men came in a canoe cut from a solid tree. Their dress consisted of jacket and trousers, all of Island manufacture, like Scotch blanketing, home-dyed blue. They were moccasins and, upon the whole, had a rough appearance, but discovered great agility, polished manners and spoke English as fine as Londoners. This was Three Rivers. Next morning we entered Murray Harbour and were comforted by the appearance of the settlement, not large but regularly settled and cleared a considerable way back from the water's edge. Their manner of fencing with wood has rather an uncouth appearance to the eye of a Briton.

"We saw some Indian females cross us in two canoes of birch bark, whose dress had a curious appearance at a distance . . . They wear a hood made of blue cloth; they take a piece of cloth in the form of a half sheet of large paper, overlapping two of the corners, in the way that grocers make up their papers to wrap small parcels in, and placing this upon their heads with the long tapering point uppermost, and the two loose corners hanging down at each ear, they have a very grotesque appearance."

—Letters descriptive of Prince Edward Island, by Walter Johnstone, 1820-21.

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HUMBLE BEGINNING

John D. Rockfellor, who made millions out of oil, started as an assistant book-keeper in a commission house