

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15, 1948

Missing Information

Exchange difficulties are cited as the reason why in 1949 Britain is to receive from Canada less bacon, and fewer eggs, and no more cheese than in 1948.

The facts as given by Agriculture Minister Gardiner are that next year Canada will send 160 million pounds of bacon to Britain, as against 195 million in 1948.

"No one will suppose for a moment that the decreases are due to any falling off in British requirements," says the Globe and Mail.

The explanation, as every one can see, is Britain's shortage of cash. Canada's reason for not sending the British the minimum quantities they need is that they cannot pay in United States dollars.

"Canada should look at this as a commercial proposition. Many Canadians would concede an emotional ground and because of Britain's unequalled services in the war, that our country owes a special debt to the British people.

"Mr. Gardiner himself promised the farmers of Canada a system which would assure markets and stabilize prices by long-term agreements with Britain. Now we find that Canada's food contracts with the British Government, far from being based on any such policy, need the endorsement of the Economic Co-operation Administration, the American official body handling aid to Europe under ERP.

"What is needed from a Federal Minister, Mr. Gardiner or someone else, is a candid statement about Canada's part in ERP and the amount of credit, if any, Canada proposes to extend to Britain and other countries in difficulties.

University Training

In his Rede lecture at Cambridge on "Universities and the State" Sir Walter Moberly discussed several problems which face modern universities. His main theme was the plea for academic freedom, justified by the services of the university to the whole community.

"Obviously this had given the Government a formidable weapon for establishing control of university policy, if it were minded to use it and if, in so doing, it were supported by public opinion. . . . To demand academic freedom was simply a way of saying that we got the best results in education and research if we left their management to people who knew something about them.

"The growing tendency to judge courses by standards of mere utility may lead to a univer-

sity becoming no more than a glorified trade school. One of the main purposes of any university must be its devotion to the humanities, to studies which relate to the disinterested pursuit of knowledge, and to its concern with matters which are not often debated in the market-place or rewarded there.

EDITORIAL NOTES

City footpaths now more slippery than gritty.

Today church bells ring out for the christening of H.R.H. the Prince Andrew (?) of Edinburgh.

If everybody kept his own footpath clean what an exceptionally pleasant place Charlottetown would be at this season of the year.

The upset at the Federal by-election of Digby-Annapolis must be causing Liberal leaders "furiouly to think" about that forgotten man between elections, the long suffering taxpayer.

A policeman on a beat, like Constable Dowling, does more in promoting law and order, and respect and fear of the law, than all the many cautionary addresses put together. The eyes have it over the ears.

Recently our railway trains have been arriving very much on schedule time, but it is satisfactory to find the powers-that-be at Moncton instructing superintendents and master-mechanics to see that this be maintained through the coming winter whether it be stormy or otherwise.

According to News of the Week the best judgment in diplomatic quarters is that General de Gaulle probably will come to power in France not later than the end of July; and that Eire is among the most enthusiastic advocates of Western European federation.

The site for the new Federal building may still be in dispute till after the general election. There are seemingly too many votes, and rents for government offices, at stake for the authorities to arrive at a definite pre-election decision.

Canada's leading role in defence research, with British and American experts looking to Ottawa for the latest developments, is by no means an enviable one. It springs from the fact that in any foreseeable conflict this country will be itself the theatre of operations.

The Order-in-Council purporting to give the Royal assent to the Culien Amendment has been held by the courts to have had no such effect. It is too late for this particular ruling to have any practical sequel, but it should show the Government that merely passing an Order-in-Council does not necessarily make any change in the law.

Labour Minister Mitchell has explained that pay of the Reserve Forces of the Armed Services is disregarded so far as the Unemployment Insurance Act is concerned. It neither has the effect of putting an employee's earnings over the ceiling of \$3,120 a year nor of classifying him as being employed.

"There's only one absolutely sure way not to have an army revolt" declared the Government of Costa Rica. "That is not to have an army." This simple but revolutionary policy was put into effect the other week by provisional President Jose Figueres. Ten days later his Republic was invaded, and having no army to repel the invasion, he had to appeal to other Republics to send him his rescue. Appeasement does not work when aggression is all about.

Gregory Rasputin, Russian "healer," killed this date 1916. Born in 1871 he was a dissolute, ignorant peasant until his conversion in his 34th year, when he became a lay monk in the Greek Church. He then visited Mt. Athos, Jerusalem, Kiev, Moscow and Petrograd, where he became known as "healer." He obtained great influence over the Tsarina, and through her played an important political role, becoming one of the "dark forces" which led to the revolution and massacre of the Imperial family. Lured to a supper party by Prince Yussupov Sumarokov Elsten, a nephew of the Czar, he was shot, and his body buried beneath the ice of the Neva. He was the author of My Thoughts and Reflections published in 1915 which describes his pilgrimage.

Hundreds of inquiries have been received by the Hudson's Bay Company in London about training for trading post jobs in the Arctic. One was a circus performer who said he used to train animals and thought he'd make a good fur post manager. But the company said preference goes to Scotsmen between 18 and 23 and particularly those who have never lived outside the Highlands. "Physically and mentally they are best suited for life and work in these isolated posts," said a company official. He added that once they leave the Highlands and get a taste of theatres and football matches, they are "spoiled" for the isolated life of the north. Eight Highland Scotsmen recently left Scotland to take up Arctic posts for the company. They will be followed by another 20 soon to be chosen. All must agree to stay single for the next three years while training to value furs brought in by Eskimo and Indian trappers and to handle the company's merchandising affairs.

Election Warning



PUBLIC FORUM

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

LONGEVITY CANDIDATES

Sir.—Bringing the list of longevity candidates up to date — all 60 or over — we now have:

- 1. Mrs. William Smith, Newton Cross
2. Donald MacKinnon, North River
3. Mrs. Sarah Tamlyn, Summerside
4. Mrs. Elizabeth MacKenzie, Charlottetown
5. Miss Teresa Reid, Charlottetown
6. Thomas Henderson, Long Creek
7. Mr. George Auld, Winsloe
8. Mrs. George Auld, Winsloe
9. Frank Sanderson, North River
10. Mrs. Gaspar Arsenault, Howland
11. Mrs. Melina MacDonald, St. Peter's
12. Angus MacKinnon, City
13. Miss Sarah Nelson, City
14. Dr. R.J. MacDonald, St. Peter's
15. Mrs. Harriet Taylor, North Granville
16. Mrs. Duncan McGilvery, Churchill
17. Mr. Wallace Lowther, North Charlton
18. Mr. Robert Furness Vernon
19. Mr. George Turner, Winsloe Road
20. Angus Cameron, Clyde River
21. Robert MacDonald, Crapaud
22. Miss Catherine McConnack, S.H. Home
23. Mrs. Charles Pridham, Montrose
24. Mrs. Mary McCull, Ellerslie
25. Miss Elizabeth McGinnis, S.H. Home
26. Mrs. John McAulay, Souris
27. Mr. George Younker, Brackley
28. Mr. Joseph Younker, Winsloe Road
29. Mrs. Charlotte Hogs Travellers Rest
30. Mrs. John Kilbride, Richmond
31. Marcus Ferguson, Hampton
32. Edmund Welsh, Summersville
33. James Benedict MacMillan, Summersville

I am, Sir, etc. UNGLE JOE

Sir.—I would like to add the name of Mrs. Robert Ware of Wheatley River to your longevity list. Mrs. Ware will be 96 next March.

I am, Sir, etc. INTERESTED READER

Sir.—I have three names to add to your longevity column. They are Mrs. William Waddell of Mount Tryon who will be 93 on Dec. 31st, Mrs. Edward Leard of North Tryon will be 92 on Feb. 22nd, and Mr. Jim Leard of Borden will be 91 on Jan. 1st.

I am, Sir, etc. MRS. WALTER WOOD, Mount Tryon.

CAPTOWN, South Africa.—(CP)—Two luxury hotels intended mainly for motor tourists in the Western Province are to be erected on the new national road between Paarl and Worcester. One is to cost \$45,000 (\$180,000) and the other \$30,000.

The Poet's Corner

THE NETTLE

With seed the sowers scatter
The furrows as they go.
Poor lads, 'tis little matter
How many sorts they sow.
For only one will grow.

The charlock on the fallow
Will take the traveller's eyes.
And gild the ploughland fallow
With flowers before it dies.
But twice 'twill not arise.

The stinging nettle only
Will still be found to stand:
The numberless, the lonely,
The thronger of the land.
The leaf that hurts the hand.

It thrives, come sun, come showers;
Blow east, blow west, it springs;
It peoples towns, and towers
Above the courts of Kings:
And touch it and it stings.

—A. E. Housman.

Christmas Cards By The Billions

By J. P. McEvoy in Saturday Review of Literature
Years ago Christmas card designs were pretty well limited to (a) candles that had been burning a considerable time and were running all over the place, (b) camels alone, (c) camels with Wise Men, (d) Wise Men leading camels, (e) bells, (f) a row of medieval dead-end kids (caroling wails) lined up under a lighted window holding a roll of wallpaper and saying "Ah!"

The biggest company in the business today is Hall Brothers of Kansas City, Mo., who make 1,000,000 Hallmark greeting cards a day and have salesmen calling on some 15,000 dealers with 5,000 different greetings "for all occasions." Incidentally, you can buy "Mother" cards for as much as \$5. each, but 35 cents is top for Pop. No comment.

They seem to succeed very nicely. People mail more than 3,000 million greeting cards a year—\$100,000,000 for postage to carry them. The Big Five—Hallmark, Gibson, Rustcraft, Voland and Norcross—will reluctantly admit it is a \$100,000,000 industry and more—but how much more they won't tell you, nor what their respective slices are.

About half of the greeting cards produced are Christmas cards. The other half are Mother's Day, Father's Day, Thanksgiving, and New Year cards account for about 10 percent. The remaining 40 percent are called Everyday in the business.

The new Valentines, like the Valentines of old, have taken on that New Look, which is really the old peek. The long skirts are back and lace fans and demure glances. This year's Christmas cards have been on their way since February, 1947, when they started as poetic throbs in the feverish brains of greeting-card writers.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

WINTER FARE

In Winter our merchants warm their stores and deck their windows in invitation to the grain-laden traveller; and the solid farmer opens his barns to supply the demands of the speculator and trader in his produce. The fox, the otter and the bear, the mink, the muskrat and sable, become objects of value to the hunter, and matters of competition with the storekeeper; and homespun cloth and socks, flannels, and a lot of minor articles, swell at this season the subjects of bartering conversation; and by these means bring, as it were, Manchester and Birmingham, and Sheffield, and Liverpool, and the West Indies, and all the outside goods-producing cities of other countries within reach of their industry, to the benefit and satisfaction of the thrifty and well-to-do of Prince Edward Island.

There are two ways of supplying the table at this season—by dependence on the market, and dependence on one's self. The latter plan becomes a necessity indeed, when located far from a market; but it is a right royal plan, and offers immense opportunities of culinary enjoyments, reduces your stock to its minimum strength, and at a blow, so to speak, supplies your whole winter's larder. Poultry of all kinds are killed, pickled, and cleaned, furnishing during the operation no end of giblet pies; a pig and bullock, or fat cow, feel the slaughterer's knife in like manner, and are cut into joints ready for the table, and set aside to freeze. A shed is then made secure, and a space about nine feet by three partitioned off. In this space about a foot of snow is shovelled, on which an assortment of joints of meat and poultry is thrust, with snow between each—then another layer of snow, and then another layer of assorted frozen joints and birds, until all are safely packed, when the whole is surmounted with more snow, and packed down with the wooden shovel, and left ready for the cook's first call for fresh meat. All that is required when a joint is wanted is to chop it out with the axe, and put it into a tub of water for a few hours, when it is as fresh, sweet, and tender as any epicure need require.

—From "The Progress and Prospects of Prince Edward Island," etc., 1861, by C. Birch Bagster.

DELAYED THANKS

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 9.—(AP)—The Salvation Army yesterday received thanks for a Christmas basket given 35 years ago. A letter from Houston, Tex., contained \$25 and a note reading: "Please accept this small contribution in appreciation for your thoughtfulness and Christmas basket in 1913."

From there they went to the Planning Department, where they were compelled to run the gauntlet of miles of comparative sales statistics to prove that they had sales appeal—that Me to You meglo ever old and ever new. Then they went to the Art Department, where they were wedded to their designs. And then to Production, where they went through a bewildering variety of highly technical operations—engraving, embossing, buffing, bevelling, bordering, punching, boxing.

Almost a year of this before the salesman got hold of them. The manufacturer starts shipping them in July, with the hope he can collect them in January. At that time he will have spent two gruelling years with Christmas 1946, and will be up to his mistletoe in Christmas 1949.

The High Cost of Living

Its Cause and Remedy

IV. THE GOVERNMENT'S TRADE POLICIES: A PRIMARY CAUSE OF HIGH PRICES

By E. L. R. Williamson, M. B. E.

The "findings" of the Special Parliamentary Committee on Price Increases were discussed in the first three of these articles. But no discussion of the cost of living in Canada would be complete without an examination of those causes of the rise in prices which were NOT taken into account in the Report. It is these factors which will be considered in this and in subsequent articles.

2. In order to facilitate comparison, the various points to be dealt with will be discussed in the same order and under the same headings as in the previous articles, viz., external prices (a); increased costs of production (b); increased purchasing power (c); and certain supplementary factors (d).

External Prices (a):

3. In my first article it was demonstrated that the rise of prices in other countries did not have an appreciable effect on the Canadian cost of living; it now will be shown that the Government's external trade policies did play an important part in price rises within Canada.

4. The Government policy having the most important effect was that of embargoes—the prevention by Government order of goods coming into Canada. The effect on increasing prices was imposed on a wide variety of goods—mostly consumer goods. The reason given was to "save U. S. dollars" (a subject not within the scope of this article). But in accordance with the Government's theory of "non-discrimination," the embargoes also were applied against similar imports from the Sterling Area which required no "dollar" exchange. This complete stoppage of all importations of particular types of goods led to such a concentrated demand upon the stocks on hand, or upon domestic products, that prices rose to extravagant heights.

5. An excellent example is the instance of tomatoes which normally are imported in large quantities from the U. S. When the embargoes were first imposed, an alternative excellent source of supply was found in the Bahamas, where tomatoes could have been purchased with the Sterling funds arising out of our heavily favourable balance of trade with the Bahamas also, but when the Government embargo was applied to the Bahamas also, the price of the scanty stocks of tomatoes in Canada shot up from eight to ten cents a pound, to eighty cents to one dollar a pound.

6. The fact that the Prices Committee in their fourth "Conclusion" (page 8) recommended the removal of some import restrictions, indicates that they, also, saw this result of Government policy, although they gave no further indication of it.

7. The second external trade policy of the Government which has had an effect on increasing prices in Canada is the special 25% Excise Tax programme. This also was imposed to reduce consumption of goods, all or part of which had to be purchased with U. S. dollars. But again, in the name of "non-discrimination," the tax was applied also to goods that could be bought with other than U. S. dollars, including goods wholly produced within Canada. This complete stoppage of the tax will not restore the old price level.

8. The effect of this tax was to increase the price of a long list of consumers' goods by at least one-fourth the previous price and, where pyramiding took place, the increase was even more. The ninth recommendation of the Committee (page 10) reveals a knowledge of the effect of this tax policy, although no other mention is made of it. Because it is much easier to raise prices than to bring them down again, the removal of the tax will not restore the old price level.

9. The third trade policy of the Government affecting prices is found in the re-imposition, on January 1st, 1948, of a heavy schedule of customs duties on imports from the United Kingdom and other areas entitled to Imperial Preference. These duties had been removed in 1949 and 1941 and their re-imposition, in January 1948, was an important factor in the sharp rise which followed in the price of all textiles and leather goods.

10. The Government's recognition of this is shown in the Budget provision for the removal of the duty on cotton textiles; but the duties on all other textiles remain. The Prices Committee made no reference whatever to customs duties.

11. A fourth trade factor in raising prices has been the Government's capital investment subsidy programme. Imports of more than 250 million dollars' worth of capital goods from the U. S. are directly attributable to this subsidy programme. These imports contributed greatly to the heavy dollar balance in Canada's trade with the U. S., which precipitated the dollar crisis, and gave rise to the whole embargo and quota system of November last. This subsidy was discontinued after March, 1947, but its effect will continue to be felt throughout 1948 and probably throughout 1949.

12. It is thus apparent that Government policy, as regards Canada's external trade, has been the principal factor in the raising cost to consumers, of imported goods and of domestic goods which are affected by the price of imported goods.

13. There are other phases of Government policy which have had an important part in raising prices. Among these are indirect taxation, the subsidization of commercial capital investment, the increase in money supply, and the procedure followed in decontrol. These will be dealt with in subsequent articles.

INTRODUCE PASTEURIZATION

The Age-Old Story

Then shall He give the rain to the seed, that thou shalt sow the ground without and bread of the increase of the earth, and it shall be fat and plentiful. In that day shall thy cattle feed in large pastures.

TOFIELD, Alta.—(CP)—Residents of this municipality 30 miles east of Edmonton will be using pasteurized milk only from now on. Rate-payers endorsed a by-law calling for sale of pasteurized milk only.

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