THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1946

Commendable Enterprise

In this age when so many are looking for government handouts and inducements of all kinds at the taxpayers' expense, it is encouraging to note that we still have men of vision and initiative. Both these qualities are exemplified by Mr. Sanford Phillips, Mayor Tanton of Alberton and their associates who are promoting the West Point - Buctouche ferry service, and who are now preparing to acquire two boats of suitable type to go into operation on the new route at the opening of the tourist season next year.

This service should prove of great advantage, not only to Prince County and eastern New Brunswick, but to the Maritimes generally. It will mean a third connecting link for Prince Edward Island with the mainland, supplementing the railway ferry service at Borden and the Wood Islands service which connects us with Pictou, Cape Breton and other Nova Scotia areas. The service from the western part of the Island to Buctouche will place us in direct contact with Fredericton and other New Brunswick centres, right on through Quebec. The distance is approximately that of the Wood Islands-Caribou route, and the success achieved in connection with the latter service by Northumberland Ferries Limited is known to all. Both these services represent something very much worth while in any community,—namely, private enterprise. Had we more local organizations of this kind, backed by our own business men prepared to take risks in providing needed public services, they would find the bureaucrats and politicians more cooperative. "Welcome evermore to gods and men," says Emerson, "is the self-helping man. For him all doors are flung wide."

Raising The Ante

The published correspondence between Premier Macdonald of Nova Scotia and Prime Minister Mackenzie King on the proposed Dominion-Provincial tax agreements is of special interest in view of the fact that it deals with a matter of great importance to all three Maritime Provinces. That is the hard-won subsidies received under the Duncan and White Commission awards. Premier Macdonald insists that the Dominion resume payment of these subsidies in addition to the proposed $15 per capita grant, in exchange for the Province relinquishing the fields of personal income, succession and corporation taxes.

This, we understand, is also what the Prince Edward Island Government is strongly urging, and with good reason. Through the efforts of two Conservative administrations in this Province we received, under the Duncan and White Commissions, subsidies totalling $275,000 per year, guaranteed us for all time. In addition, through the minority finding of former Chief Justice J. A. Mathieson, one of the White Commissioners, the door was left open for further settlement on the basis of fiscal need.

This special subsidy was discontinued under the wartime tax agreement, and presumably the same arrangement was contemplated in the new proposals by Finance Minister Ilsley in the House of Commons. The two million dollars annually that we are offered represents the cash minimum that any Province may receive, and takes no stock whatever of the subsidy due us on special claims.

Now, under pressure of Premier Macdonald and, we understand, of our own Island spokesmen as well, the Dominion Government has weakened on this issue. Mr. King in his letter to Premier Macdonald concedes that our claim for restoration of this subsidy is at least 30 per cent valid. He says:

"The Prairie Provinces have been receiving an annual subsidy in respect of their natural resources and as a result of recommendations of three Royal Commissions, Manitoba has received, and Saskatchewan and Alberta have been offered, a capital sum payment representing compensation for loss of revenue to the Provinces in respect of their natural resources during the period when the Dominion was administering these resources. Because these three Provinces would thus receive part of the payment due them in the form of a capital sum rather than an annual subsidy, only a proportion of the total payment due by them in respect of their natural resources has to be deducted as a statutory subsidy from the annual payment provided for in the Dominion's proposals.

"To place the Maritime Provinces, in this respect, in a position of equality with the Prairie Provinces, approximately 30 per cent of the special annual subsidy payable as a result of the White Commission recommendations should not have to be deducted from the proposed annual payment. Therefore, the Dominion is prepared to agree that 30 per cent of the White Commission annual subsidy should not be deducted from the annual payments to the Maritime Provinces proposed in the budget, as this amount is deemed to represent the equivalent on an annual basis of a capital sum corresponding to the capital sum paid to the Prairie Provinces in respect of their natural resources."

This is a very significant statement. The phraseology is somewhat involved, but it means that Mr. King now concedes that we are entitled in this Province to $82,500 per year—30 per cent of our $275,000 special subsidy—over and above the two million dollars Mr. Ilsley told Premier Jones was all we could expect to get.

Ottawa, it would appear, has been "bluffing" us all along, hoping to get as much out of us as possible, in exchange for as little as possible. Such an attitude is somewhat disquieting,—more creditable to a group of horse-traders than to responsible statesmen. It is fortunate that we protested vigorously, and doubly fortunate that we had such a formidable colleague as Premier Macdonald in the fight with us.

But the fight is by no means over. Mr. King's offer still has a "phoney" look as Mr. Macdonald appears to be thinking. In any case it falls far short of meeting our fiscal requirements in this Province, which Premier Jones reportedly estimates at least three millions annually.

— EDITORIAL NOTES —

Sunday, according to the calendar, will be the shortest day in the year.

* * * *

It may be mentioned Mr. Ilsley is taking his secretary and two other members of his Finance staff with him to the Dept. of Justice.

* * * *

Mr. Donald Gordon says rental decontrol would mean substantial increases in rent and thousands of evictions with nowhere to go. He is leaving the Government the "headache" of handling the problem.

* * * *

To enter and really enjoy the Kingdom of Heaven here below one must be as harmless as the dove yet as subtle as the serpent. This is the surest way to enjoy Christmas and be Santa Claus's deputy.

* * * *

Mr. Ilsley, everybody is quick to acknowledge, (says the *Gazette*), carried a heavy load through the war, a load about as heavy as that which he placed on the backs of the taxpayers.

* * * *

The Liberals took a smashing defeat at the hands of the Duplessis Government candidate in the Bagot by-election in Quebec. More handwriting on the wall.

* * * *

They are careful in all things in Toronto, especially of dogs. Meter readers of the Toronto Hydro-Electric System carry cards which show in red ink the disposition of each dog on their routes. If the card index shows that the dog is unfriendly the meter man may ask the customer to remove the dog to another room while he checks the meter.

* * * *

What are our Federal representatives about in allowing the Ration Section of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board to be transferred to Saint John, and the local employees dismissed? If rationing is about to end why commence with this Province, or is it another case of making Prince Edward Island the guinea-pig of the Dominion for experimental purposes?

* * * *

The U. S. S. R. established this date 1922 in succession to the Russian Empire. The area and population are 8,241,673 square miles and 163,000,000 people. The rural population forms 80 per cent of the whole. To the Council of People's Commissaries is attached a Joint State Political Department, formerly known as the *Cheka*, but since 1922 as the O. G. P. U., which is designed to combat political and economic counter-revolution, espionage and brigandage. Its chairman is a member of the Council. It is directed by special rules and regulations which have not been promulgated. The control of the legality of the acts of the O. G. P. U. is exercised by the Attorney-General of the Union in accordance with a special decree issued by the Central Executive Committee *(Tsik)*.

* * * *

The United States and Canada through an exchange of notes have agreed that the stationing of naval vessels on the Great Lakes for training purposes by either government would be consistent with the spirit of the Rush-Bagot Agreement. This further interpretation of the famous agreement of 1817 is subject to the proviso that full information about the number, disposition, functions and armament of the vessels should be disclosed in advance. The Rush-Bagot Agreement regulated the presence of naval vessels upon the Lakes after the war of 1812, and since has been subject to a number of interpretations. While its detailed provisions have long been outmoded, its spirit continues to guide the two governments. "As a symbol of friendly relations extending over a period of nearly 130 years the agreement possesses great historic importance," the notes said.

* * * *

The question of creation of a maritime commission will be revived again at the next session of Parliament, it is expected. A large section of the marine industry has indicated it is in favor of the appointment of such a body to deal solely with the problems of that industry, such as is done in the United States. The Government has been holding off from taking the step, possibly because of the complexities involved in shifting jurisdiction into a single agency. It is reported now that a move is under way among shipbuilders to lend their weight to the proposal along with that of ship owners and operators, and some action toward re-awakening the government's interest may be looked for before the end of January.

* * * *

The long-awaited report of the Royal Commissioners on Coal will definitely be in the hands of Reconstruction Minister Howe before the end of the year. That's the latest word from commission sources. The commissioners, under Mr. Justice W. F. Carroll of Halifax, now are in Ottawa putting the final touches to the last sections of the report. Other portions of the bulky documents are in the hands of the printers, and much of the report already has been printed. While there has been no announcement on whether or not it will be held up for tabling at the next session of Parliament, it is believed the report will be made public early in January.

Notes By The Way

If you are puzzled among the international symbols, it is "imperialism" when some other nation does it. —Vancouver Province.

The passion for fancy names is spreading to England. A Sussex chimney sweep now calls himself a "fluonomist" and charges sixpence more per chimney. —Edmonton Journal.

There are thousands of people driving automobiles who don't know the first thing about driving an automobile. If that strikes you as a half-baked, smarty-pants generalization, it may be because you don't know the first thing, either. When we look in the newspaper any Monday morning to learn who has been killed in motor accidents, we learn that even when drivers know everything else about driving, they don't know the first thing. —Morris, Man., Herald.

The noted Swedish expert, Professor Streyffert, has made the following computation of the percentage distribution of the output value of the timber industry of his country, referring only to that portion sold to foreign countries: Forest-owners (chiefly farmers) receive for the growing timber—22 percent. Lumbermen and loggers receive 22 percent. Workers at the mills receive 23 percent. Office and technical staffs receive in salaries 6 percent. Costs of industry over and above wages: viz. raw materials, fuel, fittings and plant, taxes, interest and profit— 27 percent. —From Forest and Outdoors.

Something like this should be said, perhaps to the average individual living in the postwar era of 1946: "The war is over now, although governments may not declare it so for months to come. The fighting has ceased. It is time to rebuild the world again. Our help with that will come from those who are willing to help and to work. Some lands flirt with inflation, some with 'power'; but generally speaking this land will be what we together make it. Let us make it the best Canada that has yet come to pass." —Victoria Colonist.

Strange things happen at post office counters, says British release. One of the strangest was when an old farmer handed a bucket full of money over the counter with the remark that there was a thousand pounds ($4,000) "for the bank and national savings". The somewhat dazed clerk, more used to bags than buckets as money containers, counted the money and found only £900 ($3,600) The farmer asserted that he had counted the money only that morning, and he was sure it was a thousand pounds. The clerk made another count and still it was only £900. The farmer then had a brainwave: "The wife has given me the wrong bucket."

Anyone old enough to remember the years following the First Great War will recall the endless talk heard on every hand about the "high cost of living". During the First Great War Canada made very little effort to control prices. Only in the case of wheat was control action taken, the Government closing the grain exchange, setting up a wheat board and pegging prices at $2.20 a bushel. Everything else was allowed to find its own competitive level and it was a high one. Butter was up around a dollar a pound, eggs at 80 cents, sugar as high as 26 cents a pound. Clothing and shoes took a plane ride. The average householder couldn't find the money to keep up with the price procession. The result was a buyers' strike led by the housewives. They simply did without until prices found what they considered a fair level. Merchants everywhere took a bad beating in the write-down of their inventories along about 1921. —Lethbridge Herald.

One thing deserving of special mention is the fact that Britain's reconversion period has witnessed comparatively few work stoppages. Taking into account the very special difficulties which had to be faced in the United Kingdom, the total number of working days lost has been small and the number of workers involved only a fraction of the labor force. In the first nine months of this year the aggregate number of working days lost was 1,686,000. There were 1,692 stoppages, involving 410,000 workers. Considering that some of the latter, especially in the mining industry, were involved in more than one dispute, this last figure stacks up well against a working force of nearly 18,000,000. Compared with other countries, the British workingman's lot has not been particularly happy. He has shown himself to be well disciplined and ready to put national interests ahead of his own. This is indicated by the fact that he has worked hard and seen the greater proportion of his labors go overseas at the very time when he could us them to good advantage. —Kitchener Record.

This, sartorially speaking, must be the much-heralded era of the little man, says the Vancouver Province. While averaged-sized Canadians search vainly for shirts and shorts that will fit them, the little fellows are enjoying a made-to-order situation. Look at the counters covered with shirts nearly all marked size 14 or 14 1-2. And the shorts, through some omnipotent regimentation, seem restricted to waist size 28 and 30. This is all very well for the lucky lads who manage to squeeze into such gazelle sizes, but for those Canadians who have waved goodbye to their lean and boyish lines the situation isn't funny. One can understand why it is necessary to make some small size shirts and shorts, and understand that such sizes are not in great demand and consequently in better supply. But why, oh why, does so much shirting and shorting have to go to make so many size 14's and size 28's? The only explanation seems to be that shirt and pant makers think that the majority of Canadians will use such sizes; an assumption that comes dangerously close to an affront to Canadian manhood. But keep your shirt on. You'll have to anyway until some of decent size are available.

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.

GOVERNMENT HELD RESPONSIBLE

Sir,—Your issue of November 16 contained the report of the annual convention of the P. E. Island Temperance Federation at which the president, J. H. MacFarlane, after stating the great increase in the sale of liquor in the Province from $46,667 in January 1945 to $117,187 in January 1946, attributed this to the slackening of the Prohibition law and called for a greater effort on the part of the temperance people to help in suppressing the sale of intoxicating liquor.

Now with a Government booming the sale of it and a people lusting after it, the temperance people cannot cope with such a situation.

As you know, before the new liquor store was opened Premier Jones stood up at the veterans' meeting and tendered a hearty invitation and a welcome to the returned men and all to come to the Government liquor store where they would be so well used, and we see what happened, an increase in sales of $70,530.

All Governments are supposed to be the trustees of the people and not their despoilers as this one is with their liquor sales increasing $70,530 a year, with preparations for a further increase. And this is only the financial aspect of the matter. There is the moral and spiritual life which should be the anchor-hold of every home. These men must stand accountable for the men that are being ruined morally and spiritually, for God's word says "Woe unto that man that giveth his neighbour drink"; and to make that judgment more certain it says again, "Be not deceived, God is not mocked for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap."

God has declared: "I will visit the iniquities of the fathers upon their children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me." The seed is being sown now but who shall reap the harvest? The Bible says the harvest will be at the end of the world.

I am, Sir, etc.,
HUMBLE SERVANT.

The Ancient Stars

("Wildwood" in the Vancouver Province)

Darkness covers most of our wintry hours. Cities shine like glowworms bound to earth; and citizens, like moths, must hold their eyes to the nearest light, unable to see much beyond. The countryman moves by shadows rather than light, when the sun is absent, for moonlight is not constant and the stars fails to throw enough light to reflect any color from the landscape. Hills trees and houses all appear black shadows; the lightdrawn eyes must look up at the stars.

Astronomical immensities do not gravitate down readily to the ordinary mind. It is accepted that stars are other suns, far away in space. They may be bigger and hotter than the sun that warms the earth, their heat is not appreciable here. Distance may be calculated to fine measurements, but "light years" and "par-secs" mean little to Darby and Joan.

* * *

The Pole Star keeps its' constancy, the Great Bear slowly turns about it. The bright stars in Orion shine out of the east; the little cluster of Pleiades "the Butcher's Cleaver" draws a friendly twinkle of recognition; beyond these, and the planets, the splendid gems of the heavens are scarcely known.

The ignorance is excusable Modern life seldom demands night watching in the open air; outdoor sleeping is not general; clouds in their ways are interfering when stars might be studied. We are content to neglect these other greater universes. By this we may be losing both light and strength in our common experience. Of all earth's creatures, we only know the stars, and they are known to all men, the world over.

They were familiar to the earliest of our race, they have not changed through what we call "ages." They were undisturbed when our mountains bulged up. They were shining in their silent calm when the sun threw off the mass of chaos that cooled down to the cold granite we call earth.

Nothing we can see is so perpetual. While all under our feet is crumbling with age, they are bright points of eternity. We sigh for years that are to them infinitesimal atoms of time. The Zulu the Samoan see them as we do. Our thousands of miles of space are too small to be noticed by the nearest star. Altogether, we are to them as a speck of dust, too small to be seen in a sunbeam. What then are our little tumults compared with their calm?

Our world wars, our national strifes could not be seen from those distances, however magnified. The thin film of atmosphere would hide us completely. How small we are compared with their magnitude! What is an age to us is as a "twinkle" to the star.

What is there of comfort, of hope or strength in the spectacle of the stellar universe? Perhaps this, we can see them, they have no knowledge of us. We know they exist, because we have life, and reason. If they have no life about them, we are greater than they. If they have life, we are in unity with them. The living cell rules the inanimate mud, the spirit governs matter. Thought can span the utmost bounds, can reach over the limits of time. With the stars and all else we live and move; our being is theirs, and claiming that oneness we are stronger men!

Real Name 'Afghan Lamb'

(Montreal Gazette)

The name of "Persian Lamb" given to the black, curly fur coats that Montreal women are wearing with such chic this season is a misnomer— the fur should be called "Afghan Lamb" if the name of its country of origin is to be properly indicated, The Gazette was informed by a man who should know.

He is Habibullah Z. Tarzi, Royal Minister of Afghanistan to China, and presently acting as chief Afghan delegate to PICAO in Montreal.

The so-called Persian Lamb, said Mr. Tarzi in an interview was not produced in Persia (now called Iran) at all but entirely in Afghanistan. It is made from the fur of new-born lambs of a species of mountain sheep called Karaqul. The lambs are killed almost as soon as they are born and before their first curly hair has time to straighten out.

"A cruel custom undoubtedly," said Mr. Tarzi somewhat sadly last evening. "But" he added brightening as a very swish young miss in a fine example of one of the coats under discussion swung haughtily through the lobby of the Windsor, "one that has a certain economic justification."

Mr. Tarzi was happy to talk for a while about his country which, he felt, was too little known to most people on this continent.

First of all, he said Afghanistan was not, as many seemed to think, part of India. It is an independent kingdom lying just beyond the famed Khyber Pass and bounded by India, China, Iran and Russia.

It is a high, mountainous country with a climate much like that of Canada and inhabited by people who are devout Mohammedans. They are tall, well-built people for the most part with fair complexions and aquiline profiles. Their history is complicated but they are believed by most authorities to be of the original Aryan stock that came out of India to people Europe and found what we know today as Western civilization.

At one time, Mr. Tarzi said, Afghanistan, under the Emperor Mahmud, was the nucleus of a great empire that from its capital city of Ghazni embraced most of India, Persia and Central Turkestan. Its recent history has been turbulant with the Kingship shifting rapidly among internal factions and with outside political pressure and cultural influences adding to the difficulties. A great measure of stability has come with the succession of the present ruler Mohammed Zahir Shah and standards of education and literacy are high.

Afghanistan has not had diplomatic representation in Canada up to now, Mr. Tarzi said, but he thought that with the establishment of PICAO in Montreal some permanent officials would now be needed here. He himself when his work here is finished will be returning to his post in China.

The Veto Question

(The Times, London)

The extreme demand for the abolition of the veto has little authoritative backing. But more support can be found for the view that it should be confined to cases where punitive action is in question, and there is still room for considerable discussion about the extremely obscure formula accepted at the Yalta conference on the voting rights of parties to a dispute. There is little doubt that the Americans supposed the Soviet delegates at Yalta to have conceded something which they had not in fact intended to concede. There is a case, if only for the procedural considerations which are of such importance in the proceedings of international gatherings, for defining more precisely the uses to which the veto can properly be put and the occasions on which it can properly be employed. But a clear distinction must be drawn between definition and revision. To reopen the whole question of the veto at the Assembly cannot prove fruitful in any respect.

The case against revision is the stronger if the background and origin of the veto provisions are considered. The traditional rule governing international conferences is that binding decisions can be taken only by unanimous decision. When the Charter of the United Nations was framed public opinion in many countries, ignoring the experience of the League, demanded the abrogation of the unanimity rule, and an attempt was unwisely made in the constitution of the Security Council to give satisfaction to this demand. In fact, however, this satisfaction was formal and illusory, for the recognition of a right of veto for the permanent members of the Council in essence restored the unanimity rule in so far as these members are concerned. Any proposal to establish a "security parliament" exercising jurisdiction over all its members by a majority vote must encounter the fatal objection that, in the words of an authoritative article in the current issue of the American journal Foreign Affairs, "the Soviet Government and the American Senate are opposed to it" The representatives of Soviet Russia have beyond doubt interposed their veto on occasions where its use seemed to their colleagues inappropriate. But nothing can shake the truth that the Security Council is a valuable body so long, and only so long, as its decisions command the unanimous assent of the major Powers.

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The Poet's Corner

HOW WINTER CAME

From day to day still hushed the season's mood,
The streams stayed in their runnels shrunk and dry;
Suns rose aghast by wave and shore and wood,
And all the world, with ominous silence, stood
In weird expectancy.

When one strange night the sun like blood went down,
Flooding the heavens in a ruddy hue;
Red grew the lake, the sere fields parched and brown,
Red grew the marshes where the creeks stole down,
But never a wind-breath blew.

That night I felt the winter in my veins,
A joyous tremor of the icy glow;
And woke to hear the North's wild vibrant strains,
While far and wide, by withered woods and plains,
Fast fell the driving snow.

—William Wilfred Campbell, (1861-1918).

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

EARLY WINTER WHEAT

At the last monthly meeting of the committee of the Agricultural Society Mr. John Croker procured a sample of his winter wheat, weighing 62 lbs. per Winchester bushel. Some of this wheat, we understand, has yielded 56 lbs. of flour per bushel. There seems no longer any reason to doubt that winter wheat cannot be raised here equally as well as in England. Mr. Croker also produced some red clover seed, the growth of his second crop. The seed was considered equal if not superior to that in the importation of which from foreign countries such large sums have been expended. —Royal Gazette, Sept. 6, 1831.

NORFOLK, Eng. — Mrs. Ann Youngs of Ormsby, bombed out of her home at 100, has died at the age of 103.

LONDON — London Transport now carries 15,000,000 passengers a day—more than at any time in its history.

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