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Editor and Managing Director, J. E. Burnett.
Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21, 1949

Potato Warehouses

The Dominion Government still is making no contribution to the construction of potato warehouses in this Province. This was the situation which existed a year ago when the matter was discussed in the Legislature. At that time hope was expressed that a satisfactory arrangement with the Dominion Government would shortly be made. On December 10, just before the prorogation of Parliament, the question was raised by Mr. Douglas on the passing of an item of \$100,000 "for assistance in construction of potato warehouses under regulations to be approved by the Governor-in-Council."

Agriculture Minister Gardiner said that applications were being considered from New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan. He amended this statement later, however. There had been an arrangement with Prince Edward Island under which the Dominion was to spend dollar for dollar with the Province. "The arrangement," he said, "was that when that money was spent, the warehouse was to be available to the producers of the area. The Province has been suggesting that its portion of the money be collected and repaid. We have not accepted that suggestion up to the moment. We have taken the position that our donation, and the Provincial donation, ought to be dealt with in the same way, whichever way that is. We have not asked this House for the right to collect it, and, as a result, no payments have been made in Prince Edward Island. No agreement has been reached."

In reply to a question from Mr. Hatfield, who maintained that all the warehouses in Prince Edward Island had been built, the Minister said: "They have been built, but presumably they were built under directions of the Provincial Government. Up to the moment, we have considered that the Provincial Government has not carried out what we thought was the arrangement."

He added that communications from New Brunswick are still in the form of requests for information about the plan. "No application has been received as yet."

On this meagre information, the item was passed. It seems strange that none of the potato producing Provinces appear to have benefited under this Federal scheme, which has been in operation now for some years. Mr. Gardiner places the blame on the Prince Edward Island Government for not co-operating, but how does he account for the delay in New Brunswick, where potato warehouses are badly needed in many sections? There would appear to be a lamentable lack of co-ordination between Federal and Provincial policy-makers in this matter. Voting money year after year on terms not acceptable to the Provinces helps to swell the agricultural estimates at Ottawa, but it doesn't mean anything to our farmers.

Standardization Again

Announcements of progress in standardizing war equipment of the United States, Britain and Canada are not spectacular. The process is one of slow and patient study, consultation and agreement and the gradual adoption of common equipment, parts and methods. The advantages are very great and, indeed, in case of war, might well be decisive by enabling equipment and productive capacity to be used to the greatest advantage.

In the non-military spheres there are almost equal gains to be made by adopting a similar approach although the difficulties are greatly increased by the great number of firms and products. One of the major obstacles to international marketing is the necessity of arranging the supply of spare parts for every product in every locality where it may be used. It is easy to see how such costs could be minimized if various products of whatever firm or country of origin were built of standardized parts. The whole trading picture would be made more flexible and the cost of goods and of maintenance would be greatly reduced.

The First Americans

In a recent issue of the Canadian Geographical Journal, Dr. Douglas Leechman, Archaeologist of the National Museum of Canada, describes the investigations which are being undertaken in the north-western part of North America to determine the origin of the first men in the New World. The "first men" with whom this scientific research is concerned include the Indians and Eskimos of North America, and

the work so far carried out in Alaska and the Yukon seems to confirm the conclusion long held by those who have been closely associated with those people that they are of Asiatic origin. The discovery of stone implements such as knives, arrow heads and tools of various kinds, similar to those found on the Siberian side of the Behring Strait, leads to the belief that the migration was from the west, probably by way of Diomed Island, situated midway between East Cape and Cape Prince of Wales in Alaska. This movement, the scientists are reasonably certain, followed the recession of the Ice Age, somewhere about 30,000 years ago, and they are attempting to trace the movements, mainly southward, through lands in which wild life abounded. Others who are known as Eskimos would appear to have chosen for some reason the far more inclement and desolate route along the shore of the Arctic.

The work is still in the early stages and, owing to climatic conditions and the immense amount of exploration required to find where these primitive people remained for any length of time, it will probably take years before the picture of the migration and penetration of the American Continent is complete.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Feast of St. Thomas.

The U. S. S. R. established this date 1922. In 25 years it has risen to the position of a world power, and is so strong a combination with its Balkan satellites that it is able to seek to defy the United Nations.

The "very definite drive" of Charlotte-landlords for forms authorizing increased rentals reflects the relatively pressing need here for housing accommodation. It will take a lot of new construction to bring the housing situation to a satisfactory level.

In international law it is a condition of establishing a recognized blockade that it be effective. A "paper blockade" such as appears likely in respect of Chinese ports is actually a form of piracy and the blockading government is liable for resulting damage to shipping.

Labour Minister Mitchell has revealed that \$700,000,000 or one dollar out of three of Federal expenditures last year can be classed "under the broad heading of social services." Apart from paying for defence, past, present and future, welfare seems to be the principal preoccupation of Government.

Canadian inshore fishermen who have their gear damaged by ships steaming through or even dragging trawls through may envy their English opposite numbers who are having "air cover". The Fleet Air Arm is to patrol the fishing areas and warn of danger to gear and report the names of vessels, destroying it.

The special status of Government even when it goes into business is illustrated by the Canadian Labour Relations Board's ruling, that it is unable to certify the Laborers' Protective Union as the bargaining agent for work on the M. V. Eskimo. It should be a cardinal principle that when a branch of government goes into business, the ordinary relationships of business should apply.

As already indicated, that the salaries of Members of Parliament be increased to \$10,000 is not surprising. The type of men it is desirable to have in the House could generally earn elsewhere more than that in private life and have fewer expenses. The honours and decorations which are used to reward public service in other parts of the Commonwealth not being acceptable to Ottawa, we must compete with the cash returns of private enterprise.

According to a despatch from Stockport, Cheshire, England, two British electrical manufacturing firms stood aside to allow Nova Scotia to place a \$35,000 order with a Stockport crane maker. Mr. W. Houldsworth, technical director of the Wharton Crane and Hoist Company, said the Nova Scotia Power Commission cabled Tuesday for a quotation on building a 50-ton overhead electric crane with an auxiliary hoist. The delivery date given was not early enough for the Nova Scotians, said Houldsworth, "so we hurriedly got in touch with two local customers for whom we are making cranes, and both agreed without hesitation that the Canadian order should take priority as it means dollars."

"We cabled Canada with our new delivery date, and we received the order," he said. Mr. Houldsworth said he was much impressed by Canadian business methods. To negotiate the firm's first Canadian order required only 48 hours, and the initiative was at the Canadian end. "Normally even in Britain negotiations take six or eight months," he said.

The Poet's Corner

"IN NO STRANGE LAND"

O world invisible, we view thee:
That we ask the stars in motion
O world unknowable, we know thee;
Inapprehensible, we clutch thee!

Does the fish soar to find the ocean.
The eagle plunge to find the air?
That we ask the stars in motion
If they have rumor of thee there?

Not where the wheeling systems
darken,
And our benumbed conceiving
senses
The drift of pinions, would we
harkener,
Beats at our own clay-shuttered
doors.

The angels keep their ancient
places—
Turn but a stone, and start a
wing!
'Tis ye, 'tis your estranged faces
That miss the many-splendored
thing.

—Francis Thompson (1859-1907).

Old Charlottetown
(And P. E. I.)

FORTUNATE ISLANDERS

"The society of Charlotte-Town is of a hospitable character, and the place has every appearance of an English country town. It is decidedly the most dignified of any place in America which it has been our fortune to visit. Here is the seat of government; and although this circumstance might create distinctions that militate against that harmony which ought to prevail in so secluded a spot, yet this misfortune is limited in its operation, and the inhabitants generally seek around their own social hearths that comfort and enjoyment which is sacrificed elsewhere by those who intrude themselves into a description of society for which their rank and intelligence do not fit them, and which their wealth does not enable them to support."

"Fortunate are these Islanders, the income of their governors, or their own private means does not permit their asking indiscriminately every person who is vain enough to thrust himself or his family into the company of those who amuse themselves at their expense in their hours of retirement; but enough of courtesy is displayed to support the dignity of a provincial government-house."

The present Governor Young seems to be deservedly popular, and studies to promote the interests of those who are committed to his care. Latterly he has endeavored to beguile the tedium of retirement by the pleasures and enjoyments of more festive hours. The elements, however, have not smiled propitiously on his first grand ball, which was given during the last winter, was overtaken by a tremendous snow storm, and many a happy husband, or more enamoured swain, was occupied during the after part of the night in digging his hapless partner out of the snow-drifts that were interspersed between Holland Grove and their respective homes.

"Another attempt, on the 9th of last month, was scarcely more successful; the anticipated arrival of the Columbine sloop-of-war gave rise to a preparation ball, and the result was a violent tornado, which commenced about midnight, drove several vessels on shore, caused others to founder at sea, unroofed houses, prostrated trees, and overset the Episcopal Church."

"Happily, the moral storm which so long defaced this fair Island no longer prevails; the people are living together, united and happy, in the interchange of mutual and reciprocal offices of good will and esteem; and we must here notice the true Christian feelings which prevail among the various religious persuasions of Charlotte-Town. There you will see persons of every persuasion, meeting together at the various places of public worship, and their ministers on Sunday, and attending service at the Methodist Chapel."

"In conclusion, we know of no spot more worthy the attention of the immigrant, possessing more fertile and yielding soil, a more healthful climate, a greater internal peace. Its population is now 23,249 inhabitants, an increase since 1827, when it was 23,286 of nearly one-half. A map of increased income may there find abundant means of employment and competence, and may look out with composure on those tempests that now agitate a distracted world."

—From the Halifax Free Press, quoted in the Royal Gazette, Sept. 10, 1833.

The Age-Old Story

All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men, but whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him.

LIVING COSTS

OTTAWA, Dec. 20 — (CP) — Living costs in most countries increased during the first half of 1949, but most advances were confined to five per cent or less. From January to June, the cost of living in Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom advanced about one per cent. In Australia it rose about five per cent in the same period and in South Africa about three per cent, a Bureau of Statistics report shows.

Scrooge At Christmas



Notes From Another Island

By "Anson"

LONDON, England — Many thousands of words have been written about London in wartime, and many thousands of Canadian soldiers, sailors and airmen who saw London during the second world war were suitably impressed by the spectacle of a great city defying everything that their enemy could put against it. They were impressed even if, particularly at Christmas-time, they would rather have been back home with their own folks.

But it was not an easy matter to appreciate the noble aspects of the city because most of its greatness consisted simply in carrying on with the job of high explosive, fire and sudden death; all these were apparent enough, but the "carrying on", the routine of daily work and normal business was less conspicuous simply because it WAS routine—everybody knew it would be the same to-morrow, and the next day, and the day after that. And what was more, the whole heroic affair — or most of it — was shrouded in physical gloom for blackout was the order of the day. Or rather, the order of the night.

Which was no doubt one of the most telling factors in the natural desire of the Canucks to be back in their own home towns where electric lamps by the score did their best to turn night into day, and Christmas hardly seemed and Christmas lights. Those Canucks might feel that much more at home in London now, at any rate, for there are bright lights aplenty to be seen, and the Dominion's services, men who only know London by night as a dark rather sombre place if they saw it now.

We managed to retain something of the Christmas spirit even in the war, but most of it was indoors, in our own homes, or in air-raid shelters. Many a jolly Christmas party was held far before the war (in those days). But although the spirit was there all right, Christmas tended to become a makeshift affair, with the party often interrupted in the most violent way.

Even after the war, when there was no longer the danger of such a violent contradiction of the spirit of goodwill, short rations and the absence of the bright lights played their part in hindering the gayety. This year, for the first time since before the war, the lights are on again, and London is making the most of the opportunity.

The stores have their windows and frontages ablaze with decorated Christmas trees, moving fairyland characters — for isn't Christmas the children's time of year? — and glittering novelties of all kinds. It seems so long since we saw anything like this that one might think there never had been such a display before. And true enough, there never has, for kids of up to eleven or twelve years old.

There's a sobering thought. Some of the war's upheavals can be — and are being — forgotten. Many of the threads of life have been taken up again where they were left, but it's not so easy to overlook the years that have been taken away. There's one consolation, at least: it's pleasant to see things getting back to normal, step by step, and with Christmas getting to be what it used to be again things don't seem half so bad as they were.

It may be the children's season right enough, but to some true-blue Englishmen Christmas is not much more than a sort of halfway mark between cricket seasons. The programme of games for the summer has just been issued, and I see that one person — a clergyman at that! — has been prompted to write to one of the newspapers and complain about what he sees as an advantage being gained by one team over another, or he'd have kept quiet about it) over the orthodox Christmas — traditional season of peace on earth and goodwill towards all men? Ah, yes, but cricket's different.

Now, to all readers of the

Back To Titus Oates

(London Economist)

To many people the Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcement — it came out quite casually in a written answer to a Parliamentary question — that "in suitable cases" rewards will be paid to persons who give information to the authorities which leads to convictions under the Exchange Control Act must seem like the last straw. When Mr. Churchill, in the course of the last General Election, predicted that the principles of Labor Socialism must inevitably lead to the creation of a British Gestapo, he was very widely ridiculed. It couldn't happen here, it begins to look as if the country owes Mr. Churchill an apology: it is happening here.

Exchange control is one of those departments of the law for which the public may or may not be prepared to concede a justification in expediency. It has no moral basis. How conditions which were prohibitory only ten years ago, are and are still, in most people's minds, honest (though illegal) today?

Yet this new branch of law interferes at countless points with the ordinary life of the ordinary citizen. It prohibits him from going abroad when he wants to, it prohibits her (if the ordinary citizen is a woman) from taking her normal jewellery with her, it involves such absurdities as prohibition on the sending of stamp collections to schoolboys abroad.

To enforce this collection of irritating restrictions, the secrecy of the mails can be, and is now violated in peace time. And now there are to be regards to the revenue and relations of the state is deliberate to put a premium upon private spying and grudge-bearing; not among the criminal classes, but throughout the whole population. No form of economic control is worth this price. Away with it!

As the law now stands Government departments and even local authorities can, in practice, take virtually whatever land they require, for any purpose that seems good to them, without having to secure the consent of any impartial body and without having to pay compensation to the satisfied or the dispossessed owner. But if a private owner wants to do anything with his land, he has to submit to an almost endless array of controls and charges, all of them arbitrarily determined, some of them without appeal. But if the government is to appeal only from one set of officials with a personal vested interest in the Town Planning Acts to another set of officials with the same vested interest.

Two years ago, the Liberal Party introduced into the House of Lords a Preservation of the Rights of the Subject Bill. It should be revived, and those who have a concern for liberty should refuse to vote at the coming General Election for any candidate who will not pledge himself to support it.

Absolute "liberty" is unattainable and, in this twentieth century, the state must have more powers over the persons and property of its citizens than the nineteenth would have permitted. But if we cannot go back to Magna Carta, we can at least re-assert some of the essential principles. One of these is that if the law creates offences that are not generally regarded as offences against morality, it does so at its own peril. A second is that any law which can only be enforced by methods that are repugnant to the basic liberties is a bad law.

A third is that the acts of government are not ipso facto to be deemed to be in the public interest; on the contrary, an officer of the government is more suspect than a private man of having designs upon liberty. A fourth is that no man, even if he be a town planner, ought to be "udze" in his own case. We are far gone in a peculiarly vicious form of "direct administration", and it is time to rebel against it.

ALTON, Hampshire, England — (CP) — A fox raiding the poultry-house of a farm near here killed 17 chickens.

Notes By The Way

The windmill, in its North American manifestation, is no well. But one day, coming in by steel skeleton carries a galvanized iron wheel, and a rod works up and down to pump water, in the usual form of this machine.

The Archbishop of York, who visited New York not long back, has been regaling London friends and fellow-ecclesiastics with an account of an Ottawa restaurant, where, he recounts, his waitress, after casting an interesting glance at his royal-purple dickey, said "Good morning! And what will Robin Redbreast have for breakfast?" — The New Yorker.

Old World capitals, such as London, Paris and Berlin, have grown up naturally, but New World capitals, such as Washington, Canberra and New Delhi, have all been planned. Thus far the growth of the nation has been largely, arising not wholly, haphazard, arising from the fact that it is a municipality as well as a federal area. Now, however, it has become evident that further development can proceed in a manner worthy of the nation's capital only if there is a pre-planned, such a plan has been prepared, embracing more than a score of municipalities in Ontario and Quebec, along with Ottawa itself. — Sherbrooke Record.

More than one year ago the British Government indicated that the legal profession was on the list for nationalization, because the costs of legal services and the proceedings were beyond the purse of the humblest of after negotiations between the Law Society and the Attorney-General's Department. Legal services will not be free to all, but only to those whose gross income is below \$2,000 a year. Anyone who has \$2,000 in the bank is not entitled to participate. There is also a poor prisoners' enactment, under which a person charged with a criminal offence is assigned counsel to defend him. That also stands. — Stratford Beacon-Herald.

A student Pilot of World War I days when coming in for a landing, was accustomed to judge his height by the apparent size of the furrows in a plowed field adjacent to the landing strip. For a time the system worked very well. But one day, coming in by steel skeleton carries a galvanized iron wheel, and a rod works up and down to pump water, in the usual form of this machine. Fortunately, he himself emerged from the wreckage completely undamaged except in the matter of his self-esteem, but also completely confounded by the breakdown of his trusted system of gauging his height. The mystery was solved, however, when he examined his friendly plowed field. Since he'd last used for a successful landing, it had been narrowed. — Sault Ste. Marie Star.

A windmill in full working order is on its way to becoming a rare sight, although there are plenty of the abandoned ones scattered around. The windmill still is a reasonably convenient way to get power for pumping water, but other sources of power have gradually replaced it.

The gasoline engine and the electric motor are more convenient and are always ready to work. Their advantages outweighed the cheapness of wind power. Convenience and dependability were worth the difference, so when the old windmills wore out they were not replaced. — Cornwall Standard-Pretholder.

For many years the adage that a dog is entitled to one bite has been generally accepted. It seems to recall that such a decision actually had been handed down in a United States court. At any rate, the idea seemed to be that a dog should not be regarded as vicious until it had bitten more than one person. We think the adage is sheer nonsense, and we are glad to learn that our view on the subject have been confirmed by a verdict of the Ontario Court of Appeal. Three persons, all named as owners of a dog which had bitten a girl, appeared against a judgment ordering them to pay \$1,000 hospital expenses and general damages. The appeal was dismissed, and the court ruled that it was not the bite itself that counted, adding that "all that is necessary is an irresistible inference of the dog's vicious propensity" to biting. — Kingston Whig-Standard.

Gift Tips FOR LAST-MINUTE SHOPPERS
GLOVES FOR MEN
FUR LINED GLOVES
\$6.95 a pair
Choose for "HIM" a pair of rich Capeskin Leather Gloves. Warmly lined with soft fine fur robustly constructed for longer wear.
Give Fur-Lined Gloves—He Likes Them
Cape Gloves Lined \$2.75
Goatskin Gloves \$4.75
Deerskin Gloves \$5.75
Deerskin, Hand-stitched \$6.00
Lined Pigtex Gloves \$2.95
Canada's Finest Gloves—PERRIN — ACME — UNIQUE
HENDESON & CUDMORE WHERE QUALITY IS SURE