

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1948

Then And Now

In the first fiscal year of Confederation, ending June 30, 1868, customs yielded \$8,624,000, excise \$3,006,000, and all other taxes \$2,087,000.

What would this formula give the Provinces if followed in the reallocation now being worked out at Ottawa? In other words if the Provinces were allowed \$2,488,000 out of customs and excise collections of \$11,630,000 in 1867, what should they receive out of the more than \$1,000,000,000 the Dominion is receiving from these same sources in the present fiscal year?

There was no such condition in the 1867 allocation, and there should be none such in the new allocation now contemplated. Fiscal needs and taxation potentials were the sole considerations that determined the deal made by the Fathers of Confederation 18 years ago.

The Brockville Conference

Summarizing the results of the recent 12th annual conference of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture at Brockville, Ont., the Winnipeg Free Press notes that the conference had some trouble when it considered the question of lifting our embargo on cattle shipments to the United States.

The day previously the Federation had heard Mr. Flood, agricultural attache at the U. S. embassy in Ottawa, explain how the U. S. government has lowered its duties on Canadian farm products and he expressed the hope that cattle shipments to the U. S. might be resumed in part at least, by the spring.

There was no resolution dealing directly with the wheat agreement with Great Britain. As expected, however, Mr. Hannam defended the agreement in his presidential address; he is one of the farm leaders who urged the Government to sign the agreement.

The Federation unanimously passed a resolution asking for "continuance of the prohibition of the importation, manufacture and sale of margarine in Canada."

The conference was very firm on the question of price control. It is opposed to having ceilings imposed on butter and meat; and it strongly protests the reimposition of further price controls of livestock and livestock products, unless these are accompanied by a policy of overall control of the prices of those goods and services which constitute the farmer's production costs."

Referring with approval specifically to the Dominion marketing legislation of 1934 the Federation demanded a national Marketing Act.

While emphasizing the humanitarian impulses of Canadian agriculture, the Federation also was careful to ask for floor prices on farm products and for guarantees by the Federal treasury. At the same time it asked that exemptions from income tax payments for single persons be raised from \$750 to \$1,200 and for married persons from \$1,500 to \$2,400.

An entire morning session was devoted to a discussion, led by several economists, of a stabilization programme for agriculture.

The resolution which aroused the greatest differences of opinion was the one which asked that the Wheat Board Act be amended to enable the board to become the sole marketing agency for all other grains, in addition to wheat.

It should be understood that all resolutions endorsed at the public sessions have only the

force of recommendations. The board of directors may accept or reject them as they prepare their submissions to the Federal government. However, since these directors meet privately, the public sessions provide the only opportunity for open debate on the central problems of farm policy.

In recent years, concedes the Free Press, the influence of the Federation with the Federal Department of Agriculture has greatly increased. On many occasions Mr. Gardiner has sought to win support for his policies by showing that they embody the views of the Federation. Apart from this, the recent conference was important on its own merits, since it covered the entire field of agricultural policy as it now is being debated in Canada.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Today is Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day.

Tomorrow Ash Wednesday, beginning of Lent.

The curlers from home and abroad are made welcome to the City.

An alcohol fast here in Lent would play havoc with the Government's "blood money."

Enthusiasts for the roarin' game are in their element and the order of the day is, "Soop her up."

Then there is the irrepresible optimist who claims we have a new off-season major industry—snow removal.

It will be seen from our advertising columns that "John of the Lilacs" book of poems is now on sale at book stores in both the City and Summerside. No more appropriate Lenten or Easter gift could be selected.

In Poland the babies are fed with eye-droppers to make the milk go around. Children can't grow healthy on this type of feeding. Let us give them the chance they need for life and health by making our donation today to the Canadian Appeal for Children.

The question of compulsory government inspection and grading of fish products was argued at the Quebec fisheries conference. Islanders with the experience of development of markets for seed potatoes will certainly favor a properly graded product.

Notwithstanding, indeed, because of the good winter roads, not a few autoists got storm-stayed over the week-end. Tempted by the fine weather and smooth highways they left for parts distant, and were caught in the north-easterly drift of Sunday evening.

The U. S. Navy has announced plans for a monster 60 to 80 thousand ton aircraft carrier from which to launch atomic bomb carrying planes. Whatever its merits as an offensive weapon it will at least be a more satisfying target for A-bombs than anything afloat.

We will probably find that the dollar saving program does not immediately stop the drain on American funds. Large imports of capital goods partly offset the program in its early stages but should eventually result in considerable savings of exchange.

Traditional Chinese politeness seems to have gone by the board in Shanghai. After the demonstrations, which the Chinese did not attempt to quash, British property owners received a police notice: "There are a lot of slogans written with oil and ink at your main entrances. Please wash or chip them away promptly to preserve the neatness of our city."

Lord Lister, English surgeon, died this date 1912. Influenced by Pasteur's discoveries of the origin of fermentation and putrefaction, Lister began his far-reaching and important work on the cause and prevention of septic infection of wounds, which speedily led to his employing antiseptics in all surgical operations. The immediate and definite success of the Listerian treatment soon led to its adoption by surgeons everywhere.

Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King admitted in Parliament that his nominees for the Senate had given an undertaking to Mr. King as the one who was responsible for nominating them that they would support any reform measures the King Government might introduce. Such an undertaking depriving members of freedom to vote on future bills is contrary to our ideas of the independence of Parliament. They could not, of course, be enforced but the exacting of such promises would seem to be a breach of parliamentary privilege.

The Rt. Hon. Mr. Howe and staff can decide what capital goods may be imported, says The Printed Word. On the prohibited list, except under special permit, is printing machinery. No printing machinery has been made in Canada since the Gordon press produced by Westman & Baker went off the market a generation ago. There are rumors of two competing projects. J. E. Atkinson is said to be planning a big plant on the waterfront for his Star Weekly, a Toronto paper of enormous (for Canada) circulation. The other rumor is the thought that W. H. Wright may wish George McCullagh to produce a weekly edition of the Globe and Mail. The Star is a Government supporter. The Globe and Mail is a stern and persistent critic of the Government. It is altogether likely that Mr. Howe would endeavor to be fair in dealing with applications. But that a politician has the power to be arbitrary and discriminatory is intolerable. It is intolerable even in matters having more commercial significance. It is worse when the situation makes possible the hampering of dissemination of criticism of government.

Notes By The Way

It may be true that the best things in life are free, but the enjoyment derived from watching the sun rise has never compensated for going without breakfast — Kitchener-Waterloo Record

A Briton reports he has a profitable sideline trading family trees for Americans, some of whom believe there's royal blood in their veins. And they won't mind too much, perhaps, if the blue stuff is traced to George III—Windsor Star.

There is a field of action open to the province which could have a remedial influence on the immediate traffic problem even though it would in no way replace the safety campaign. It is in the enforcement of existing traffic regulations and the curbing of dangerous driving practices. These are elementary matters, with which every driver is supposed to be familiar before he is granted an operator's permit. And yet regulations are being broken every minute of the day, while dangerous driving practices have gained widespread acceptance.—Toronto Globe and Mail.

To many, Britain now appears to be poised at the dawn of a new Elizabethan Age. From it is not expected another Shakespeare. But it is reasonable to hope that the intense activity in another sphere will produce a scientist of comparable stature, whose gift to the world may contribute to the relief of those human wants which breed disorder and strife. The conditions are propitious. And in that brotherhood of science exists the spirit which could encourage that most desirable development.—Victoria Times.

Fundy's prolific crop of seaweed also holds promise. Research in Scotland has shown that a wide variety of products can be derived from the various seaweeds. Chemists know these products as "alginates" or "seaweed sugars," and there are scores of industrial uses for them. Even the shells of the clams and mussels packed by Bay of Fundy canneries could mean work and wages. Waste now, they could be turned into mother o' pearl buttons with the residue of the shell being ground into grit for poultry.—Saint John Telegraph-Journal.

In an Arctic post the R. C. M. P. are anxious to get in touch with a local trapper. The trapper's enthusiasm for an Indian girl led him to make gifts to her that were not his to give. He was apprehended when complaints were brought to the RCMP and sentenced to cut the coming winter's supply of firewood for the post. Through the Arctic Summer the trapper worked off his sentence diligently, was released and faded into the bush.

On the first cold night of late August a Mountie brought in an armful of the newly cut wood. He had some difficulty with it. A few more samples from various places in the pile confirmed his worst suspicions. The wood had all been cut two inches too long for the fire box.—The Printed Word.

When Mr. A. G. Rowe, a Tasmanian garage proprietor, was called out in the middle of an icy night last Winter to serve petrol, he went back to bed with bitter thoughts about night motorists. He could not sleep, and in the morning started working on his brain-wave—a self-service petrol pump operated by an electric motor, for which he has secured patents in all countries of the British Empire and the United States. It resembles a grandfather clock, and will provide a 24-hour service for all motorists when petrol rationing is lifted. The money is placed in a slot and petrol is measured through a meter. Mr. Rowe has made provision for fluctuating prices of petrol.—Australian News-Letter.

After spending 55 years in goal, Antonio Collins, an Italian, now a widowed old man of 80, has been pardoned and has returned to a world which is new and strange to him, writes our Rome correspondent. When he was a young peasant of the Abruzzi region he was tried and convicted of the murder of the wife of another peasant, who had been found with her throat cut. For more than half a century he was passed from prison to prison, always protesting his innocence, and when interviewed recently after his release he still maintained that he did not commit the crime.—London Times

For years the Young Men's Section and other public-spirited bodies have urged that everyone get out and vote on election day. The following item from the Dauphin Herald tells of one place where all the voters did turn out with untoward consequences: Few places in the country can lay claim to having a 100 per cent turnout for voting. Yet this happened in the Big Stick municipality in Saskatchewan. Of 210 voters on the voters list 210 residents turned out to vote. However, this led to complications. Two candidates were running for Reeve, Albert Jaster and Walter Melrose. They each received exactly the same votes—108 each. The winner was "pulled out of a hat"—From Winnipeg Tribune.

SURE, WEAR SWEATER

HALIFAX — (CP) — Ald. Ralph Sullivan has no particular opinion of the new look, but he does think girls who work at city hall should wear more clothes. It's not that they're immodest, but they keep complaining that the offices in the building are cold.

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.

THE WATER PROBLEM

Sir,—The letter of Mr. David L. McKinnon—appearing in Saturday's press must add to the electorate's uneasy view of the candidacy of two active plumbing contractors for election to the Board of Commissioners of Sewers and Water Supply, to form a controlling majority if both elected. The writer finds no fault with the good sense and timeliness of the letter, at least as it is intended to safeguard public health. But its reference to the needs of areas just beyond the City limits gives rise to thought.

Undoubtedly, the suburban areas about the City must have access to pure water; probably this can best be done by extending the City water system under some type of financing and regulating control set up by the Government to protect the City against financial loss and the suburban consumer against high rates that might otherwise be fixed for early recovery of the cost of extension. There can be little doubt that our Water Commissioners will have important questions to decide, and should have no personal considerations to influence them.

There has always been some question of the propriety of any active plumber serving on the Board. In ordinary times, this question mainly arose from the circumstance that the Board's engineer is charged with the duty of inspecting, and if necessary, condemning the work of all plumbers within the City. The last election appeared to resolve or overlook this difficulty, probably through regard for the plumber candidate, and confidence in the strength of the Board and the recognized integrity of the engineer.

But in the coming election two plumbing contractors are offering, and one of them resident outside the town and in the area requiring new service. And that new service will certainly give many jobs to plumbers and present many problems to the engineer and to the Board. One plumber must be elected, and that result cannot be condemned in light of the last election. The question facing us now is whether both should be elected and control its judgment in all matters.

This is not a letter for or against any candidate, but against an impossible situation.

WORRIED TAXPAYER

I am, Sir, etc.

FROM: THE EVERLASTING MERCY

The gipsy's camp was in the copse, Three felled trees, with beehive tops, And round black marks where fires had been, And the old wagon, painted green, And three ribbed horses wrenching grass, And three wild boys to watch me pass, And one old woman, by the fire, Fluking a rabbit warm from wire, I loved to see the horses bait, I felt I walked at Heaven's gate, That Heaven's gate was opened wide, Yet still the gipsies camped outside, The waste souls will prefer the wild, Long after life is meek and mild, Perhaps when man has entered in, In his perfect free from sin, The campers will come past the walls, With old lame horses full of galls, And wagons hung about with withies, And burning coke in tinker's stithies, And see the golden town, and choose, And think the wild too good to lose, And camp outside, as these camped then, With wonder at the entering men. —John Massfield.

Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

CIVIC ECONOMIES

"Very few of our citizens are ever interested enough to attend any of the regular meetings of the City Council. Ask those who stay away, why they do not go and they will shrug their shoulders. Briefly it is because the Councilors are hypnotized. Nothing is being done — citizens have given them up, and consider them mere figure heads."

"It appears that a little over a year ago, when the present Council was elected, economy was the cry of the party who were working; and before the rest of the citizens were aware of what happened the present men were elected. Consequently work on the streets has been gradually lessened, the sidewalks have been neglected, no attempt has been made to increase the attractiveness of the city by planting trees and work of that sort—and all for the sake of a little-soiled economy the climax of which is a reduction of one-ninth of one per cent of the tax on personal property — a

Lenten Meditations

(From The Times)

IN THE BEGINNING

The Christian life is rightly understood only as it is seen to be a life of ministry, a stewardship, a dedication to a way of life whose chief motive is that of service. The religious experience of the Christian, with all that is included in the practice of prayer and worship, may be looked upon as essentially a preparation, a means of equipment, for a life given to the service of God and man.

In the work of the Church, as St. Paul frequently emphasizes, there are diversities of function and service, and therefore differences of responsibility. From the beginning some have been set apart by ordination as, in a special sense, the ministers of Christ; and it is their duty and high privilege to devote their lives to the work of the Church, and by teaching and example to strive to extend the areas of life over which Christ rules. And this, not in any merely geographical sense, but with the aim of bringing the whole of man's activities into harmony with the spirit of teaching of our Lord. But this is also the inescapable responsibility which rests upon every Christian. He may never adopt an attitude of neutrality towards the trends, whether good or ill, of human life. Never was there a greater field for corporate and individual Christian action than in the present age, nor more urgent demands for mutual understanding, sympathy, and the compassionate deed. The chaos of modern life and the immeasurable suffering to which it has given rise may have tended by their very magnitude and persistence both to deaden men's sensibilities and to discourage the individual who in the face of it all feels himself to be utterly helpless. Such an attitude, however, is defeatist. The Christian must never give way to hopelessness; he must see in every threatening situation a personal challenge to thought and action. Hope, as Maritain has pointed out, is nothing less than a Christian duty.

reduction that will not earn a solitary thank-you, but will be received with contempt. At the same time the appropriation for streets has been considerably reduced—all with the consent of the hypnotized brotherhood.

"What does this reduction of the street appropriation indicate? That we are to have bad streets, and that the laborers who were formerly employed will not be able to get a day's work. . . . The scavenger, at a magnificent salary of five dollars a month, was discharged in order to reduce expenses. . . . Why is this sort of thing done? Candidly we do not know ourselves. These Councilors are all able-bodied. But inside the stately Council hall they are transformed by a few Svengali passes into obedient creatures ready to agree to almost anything that is brought before them. . . . Citizens must take notice sooner or later of the way civic affairs are being administered; must elect men not subject to hypnotic influence, or else see that they do not elect one possessing the mesmeristic power. . . . Other things that have been mentioned, The Park Roadway will be finished about the end of this century—or the next; a leather medal ought to be got ready for the man who will have it delayed so long. Black Sam's Bridge' also is being left alone—a standing disgrace to the city. . . . Another economy proposed is to tie up the water-carts. One of these is a combination affair which cost a lot of money. It may be put in the museum with the high-priced street roller, which is a good thing to use on the streets and for that reason is seldom used. After this is done the solemn curfew bell might be sold. The corporation of Summerside are advertising for a fire alarm. Charlottetown might then burn down; but we would have the money for the fire bell."

FIRST IRON-CLADS

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