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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 21, 1949

Civic Pensions Fund

The city employees' pension scheme was passed by the City Council last night, with very little further discussion and with all present voting for it, including Coun. Johnstone who had shown, in a letter in yesterday's Guardian, how in the course of years the scheme would work to the disadvantage of the taxpayers.

In the interests both of the City employees and taxpayers, fuller discussion on this bill before it passed was expected. Some inquiry at least could have been made as to the manner in which the Provincial teachers' superannuation fund is working out.

If Provincial or Federal legislation is to be a guide in civic affairs, the defects as well as advantages of Government schemes should be studied carefully. Perhaps our City Councillors have done this, and are now completely satisfied as to the soundness of the civic scheme.

Forestry Congress

A proposal has been made by the Canadian Forestry Association for the holding of a national forestry congress. The congress would be a public forum for full discussion of the nation's forestry problems.

The Association warns that much of the present accessible forest is being unnecessarily overcut, or is being cut before maturity. This could be curbed by a proper national forestry plan.

Mutually Advantageous

Commendable examples of co-operation by Canada in improving trade relations with the United States are cited in the current issue of The Country Guide, published in Winnipeg.

"For this potato trade," notes the Country Guide writer, "is very much two-way. It is a striking illustration of the inter-dependence, agriculturally, of the two countries. It should be of special interest to any local groups who do not see beyond their own commodity in this matter of total, two-way trade.

"United States potato farmers like to buy seed potatoes from Canada. In some areas they depend on Canadian seed potatoes to a considerable extent. Imports of these potatoes for the past five years, 1944-48, totalled \$18,900,000.

"As for table stock potatoes for the consumer, that is something else. The United States ships early potatoes to Canada, and Canada ships potatoes later in the season to the United States. In 1948, United States imports of table stock potatoes from Canada totalled \$3 million, and United States exports to Canada were only \$377,000. That year, however, imports of pota-

atoes were subject to quota under the Emergency Exchange Conservation Act. An importer was allowed 50 per cent of the total value of his imports of items in the fresh fruit and vegetable category (potatoes, onions, apples, citrus fruit, and citrus juices) during the period July 1, 1946 to June 30, 1947. This quota could be used to buy any of the items within the category. In October, 1948, the quota was increased to 70 per cent, and on April 1, 1949, it was further increased to 80 per cent. The year before, 1947, the United States imported from Canada four million dollars worth of these potatoes and in return sent Canada 1.2 million dollars worth. But the year before that, 1946, United States imports from Canada of table stock potatoes were only \$180,000, compared with exports to Canada of 6.2 million dollars. The year before that, 1945, the value of United States imports from across the border was 4.6 million dollars and that of United States exports to Canada was 4.7 million dollars."

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Provincial plowing match and horse show at Dundas today.

This Province is almost unique in that the changes in the value of currencies benefits it materially, both as regards exports and imports.

Summerside welcomes, on behalf of all the Island, the naval, military and air attaches of Argentine, Brazil, China, France, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the U. S. A. as well as of the United Kingdom and of South Africa.

The very moderate devaluation of the Canadian dollar announced by Finance Minister Abbott should serve both to encourage exports to the United States and imports from the Old Country.

The people who will suffer most by the devaluation of the pound are those who draw pensions or receive remittances from sterling countries, and those immigrants who are still having their money transferred by instalments in accordance with British emigration regulations.

The decision of Progressive-Conservative Leader George Drew not to move an amendment to the draft address marks a graceful acceptance of the verdict of the electorate on the Government's record. It also serves the useful purpose of saving time for close examination of proposed legislation.

The Directors of the Bank of Canada were to be on tour of the Maritimes this week, but were held up on account of the devaluation crisis and got no farther than Montreal. It is noted that Charlottetown was not included in their itinerary though Sackville was. Is this on account of our losing the branch of the Bank due to lack of accommodation?

Members of the boards of referees under the Excess Profits Tax Act, Mr. Justice J. D. Hyndman, T. Noel Kirby and Alex Gray of Ottawa, are due to arrive tomorrow to begin a sitting here. The chairman of the board, Mr. Justice J. D. Hyndman was delayed arriving at Saint John due to indisposition but plans to be here and at Halifax. The referees are accompanied by Mr. Edward Oakes, secretary of the board.

The International financial crisis which set European financiers by the ears saw two hundred eminent bankers from 35 countries take part in a summer school at Oxford University recently. The gathering was organized by the British Institute of Bankers. The school lasted ten days. During that time most aspects of world trade and finance were discussed, preparatory to Sir Stafford Cripps' visit to Washington.

The announcement of Veterans Affairs Minister Gregg that the task is already completed of determining what decorations servicemen are entitled to cause for congratulation. His fears of an undue strain being placed upon the Post Office, however, are probably unfounded. Britain discovered that ex-servicemen were so slow in applying for their medals that the principal problem is that of storage.

Sir Walter Scott, Scottish novelist, poet and man of letters, died this date 1832. His master pen vivified scenes, out-door and indoor, Highland and Lowland; characters heroic and lowly, humorous and pathetic; history and romance; the Middle Ages and Nineteenth Century. He exalted and purified the novel, and made Scotland known throughout the world.

Claiming to be the only woman in the world knowing the secret of inducing ants to live and work under the public gaze between two panes of glass, 63-year-old Mrs. May Briant of Bedford, England, is sending her "ant palaces" overseas to bring in foreign currency for Britain. Forty-five years ago, her husband, a lecturing entomologist, after years of research, produced a soil in which the Amber Meadow ant will work. When he died in 1919 she began to sell "ant palaces" in order to educate her children. Into a wooden frame Mrs. Briant fits two sheets of 8 x 8" glass, 1-8th of an inch apart; and into this space she puts one queen ant and about 200 workers with some of the secretly processed soil. Here they live through the whole cycle of their hard working and autocratic regime. The queen ant is waited upon by her train of personal attendants; her eggs change to larvae, cocoons, and finally hatch into ants which, in turn, begin their ceaseless work until finally they die. But there are always new citizens being born and the community life goes on indefinitely. Not until a friend took an ant palace to America and found a market did Mrs. Briant think about overseas export. Indeed, she refused to consider the matter for some time. But now ants are likely to be Britain's latest export industry.

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.

COUN. JOHNSTONE'S REPLY

Sir.—The anonymous authority who prepared the statement submitted at last night's City Council meeting and read by Councillor Lowther, endeavours to show the figures quoted in my letter in yesterday's Guardian are misleading by pointing out that \$5,880.00 paid in monthly instalments for a period of 20 years will amount to \$81,144.00.

Just what bearing this has on the fact that \$5,880.00 is \$2,468.00 short of the amount necessary to purchase a \$600.00 monthly income for life (Dominion Gov't. figures) it is difficult to see, but seemingly the Mayor and Council were duly impressed. Why not spread the instalments over 30 years and have a surplus?

I am, Sir, etc., EDWIN C. JOHNSTONE

The Poet's Corner

THE PLOUGHMAN

He behind the straight plough stands
Stalwart, firm shafts in firm hands.
Naught he cares for wars and naught
For the fierce disease of thought.
Only for the winds, the sheer
Naked impulse of the year.

Old Charlottetown

EARLY PLOUGHING MATCH
"On Tuesday last a Ploughing Match took place under the direction of the Central Agricultural Society, at Nance Villa, the property of Charles Edgerton, Esq. His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, accompanied by Miss Fitz Roy, and several gentlemen on horseback were present at the commencement and termination of the match. Eight ploughs started together, and finished nearly at the same time. The prizes were awarded as follows: 1st, John Ferguson, St. Peter's Road; 2nd, Thomas Newberry, Royalty; 3rd, Michael Bryenton, Union Road. A donation of five shillings was made to each of the other ploughmen, viz: George Newberry, John Handler, John Croker, Manoah Rowe and James Edgerton. —Colonial Herald, October 5, 1830.

Britain's Chancellor Sums Up Situation

Following is an excerpt from Sir Stafford Cripps' broadcast, Sept. 18, in announcing the devaluation of the British pound sterling: "This step that I have announced is the most serious that the Government could possibly take and we are taking it because our present pound sterling dollar difficulties are, we believe, otherwise insubstantial. They demand immediate and drastic treatment if we are to preserve the stability of sterling and to increase our dollar earning power. It is an absolutely essential requirement for our future prosperity."

"We have decided upon these steps because we are determined not to try and solve our problem at the cost of heavy unemployment or by attacking the social services that have been expanded over the last few years. This drastic change is the only alternative and it offers us the chance of a great success, but only if we all play the game and do not try to take advantage of one another. If we take fair shares of our difficulties as well as of our benefits, these steps that we have decided upon will be supplemented by those agreed in Washington in the most frank and co-operative talks that I have ever taken part in. Our American and Canadian friends, who have already given us such great temporary help, have expressed themselves as ready to work with us for the permanent strengthening and stabilisation of sterling which they recognize as a most important currency. "They are willing, too, to make their contribution towards the increase in dollar earnings which is the essential basis for a high level of trade by the sterling and other areas. This is a great encouragement both to us and to all the free democracies of the world. It gives us a convincing hope with our own efforts thus made effective that we shall finally emerge successfully out of our post-war economic difficulties. "We thus start upon another

World Physical Fitness Programs



91 Per Cent Of Britain's Disabled Found Work

(United Kingdom Information Office)
In Britain the finding of work for all disabled workers, whether injured in the war or by other causes, is taken care of in one comprehensive scheme. Under an Act passed by the United Kingdom Parliament in 1944, a public corporation was set up to provide facilities for the rehabilitation, training and employment of the disabled.

The public corporation, formerly known as "The Disabled Persons' Employment Corporation Ltd." has just changed its name to "Reemploy Ltd." which epitomizes its aims. "Reemploy" is the name given to special factories established in different parts of the country, to give employment to people whose disability is so serious as to prevent them from obtaining employment under normal industrial conditions.

To make it quite clear who was entitled to special help in getting employment, the 1944 Act provided for a special register on which any disabled person could record his name if he wished. Nearly a million people are now included in the list. As well as providing specially sheltered work for the seriously disabled, the 1944 Act also provides that every employer of 20 or more workers, takes on a quota of registered disabled persons. The Minister of Labor is empowered by the Act to specify such jobs as he thinks are especially suitable for disabled persons. An employer who fails to provide employment for his quota of disabled persons, can not take on other workers without the Minister's permission. Neither can an employer discharge a disabled person without reasonable cause, stage in the magnificent struggle of our people to overcome the crushing difficulties imposed upon them by their sacrifices in the world war. We have so far splendidly succeeded and it is no time now to falter or hold back. In the light of the renewed promises of co-operation from the members of the Commonwealth, from the U.S. and from our friends in western Europe, we have on your behalf accepted the challenge of the times for fresh and decisive action, convinced that it will bring us still nearer to our goal of happiness and prosperity for our people."

The Age-Old Story

The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger. SHIPBUILDING CENTRES
The cinque ports — five seaports on the southeast coast of England — were used to early times to furnish shipping for the state.

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Notes By The Way

A New York dog lover is urging that insurance companies give a discount on burglary policies in homes that have a dog. The theory is that Bowser's teeth, or even his bark, lessen the risk of theft. As confirmed dog lovers ourselves, we second this idea for allowing dogs a dignified way to earn part of their keep. The saving on burglary policies should at least equal the cost of the insurance against Fido's biting the neighbors. — Chicago Daily News.

When the war at sea was a grim reality, someone had the idea of supplying petrol to the Allied Army of Occupation in Europe through a pipe-line laid along the bed of the sea. In all, 500 miles of piping was laid down. The part which gave its name to the whole operation was that running from the coast of Kent to the French port of Boulogne: the Pipe Line Under the Ocean. The initial letters of which makes up the word PLUTO. But that is old history now. The pipe is being salvaged and will yield 1,000 tons of lead from its inner lining. Secondly, there is steel, 500 miles of it, from the outer covering of the pipe-line, and last, but by no means least, comes the news that 74,000 gallons of petrol have been drained out of the pipe-line and returned to the Central Ministry Pool.

Four ships of the United States Navy have just paid a courtesy call at a Spanish port, the first since the republic fell to the forces of Franco and Mussolini. In the course of this official visit the commander of the United States naval forces in the Mediterranean and the Eastern Atlantic spent an hour in conference with the Generalissimo himself. When queried about this visit some days ago, President Truman said he saw no particular implications in it, and Secretary Acheson said it had no political significance. The President and the Secretary must be well aware, however, that no matter how unimportant the visit may appear to American eyes, it cannot help but be useful to Franco for propaganda purposes. The little dictator certainly will not miss this opportunity of telling the

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