

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, SATURDAY, MAY 28, 1949

We Have Other Kinds, Too

Evidently the question of raisins vs. fish on the railway dining car menu has caused considerable discussion, not only in the Maritimes but in Ontario. The Toronto Telegram, quoting us, remarks:

"Down in Charlottetown, the editor of The Guardian pretends to be furious because, at the behest of California raisin growers, the Canadian National Railways recently observed Raisin Week, featuring raisin puddings and other raisin dinners on its dining car menus. Why not a Canadian Canned Fish Week? The P.E.I. editor wants to know.

"If a small can of lobster costs 89 cents in your neighborhood grocery store, how much would it cost on a diner? Pass the raisins!"

Without disparaging our fancy canned lobster, our suggestion was that high-class chefs should be capable of making up delectable dishes from other island canned fish products at no great expense. Pass the chicken haddie!

The Old Tariff Racket

When the farmer asks for a price support or some form of federal assistance, angry protests are heard from industrial centres and their representatives in Parliament, as if the treasury were being bled white by the tillers of the soil. One would imagine that these champions of free enterprise had never heard of tariffs. Yet it is because of tariff protection that they are so prosperous and powerful today. Very often it has been at the farmers' expense, and in any case it is rarely the farmer that has benefited. A recent example cited by an exchange is the artificial boosting of tariffs against Belgian glass when it threatened to undersell Canadian glass. This was done by computing the tariff on an artificial price, comparable to the Canadian wholesale price, rather than on the real price of the glass.

The U. S. too, despite the fine talk of some of its spokesmen, is maintaining a similar "invisible tariff" against imports from Canada. According to the Financial Post, hardly a dent has been made in this invisible wall which is made up of special quotas, arbitrary valuations, unnecessary quarantines, official red tape and, above all, the apparently firm determination of many customs officials to keep out the other fellow's goods by any way or another.

Specific examples are quoted in the published report of a special joint committee of the Canadian and U. S. Chambers of Commerce. It cited instances where Canadian goods that had paid the regular duty were blocked completely by new special valuations or long delaying tactics. This all adds up to higher farm costs on both sides of the line.

What It Means in Miles

Savings to be achieved in the distances travelled by freighters carrying shipments to and from many Maritime Provinces points when the Chignecto Canal is built, are thus listed in the St. John Telegraph-Journal:

Table with 2 columns: Route and Miles. Rows include: Charlottetown to Saint John (609), Charlottetown to Boston (708), Chatham to Saint John (728), Dalhousie to Saint John (909), Dalhousie to Windsor (980), Campbellton to Saint John (934), Richibucto to Saint John (658), Richibucto to Boston (783), Hillsboro to Montreal (1,421), Montreal to Saint John (1,323), Joggins to Charlottetown (681).

Health Schemes

For over a decade now Norway and Denmark have had in operation a national wide medical insurance plan which seems to work without too much governmental solicitude. In Denmark every family is required to take out a policy with one of the five or six officially recognized health-insurance companies, these companies being privately owned and operated. If a family has not a policy its members cannot qualify for an old age pension or for unemployment insurance. The doctor is given the number of the insurance policy and his bill goes straight to the insurance company. Likewise when a person goes to hospital, that institution collects from the insurance company.

As for the medical fee, these are fixed by a national commission on which are represented the doctors, the insurance companies and the Government. Then the patient must pay 25 per cent. of the cost of medicine and 25 per cent. of the cost of glasses, dentures, and other medical supplies. The 75 per cent. is made up by the insurance companies and the Government.

In Norway the cover-all is a Government operated insurance company. The patient pays the doctor's fee, and then with the receipted bill collects from the insurance company. He himself pays 10 per cent. of the bill, and the entire cost of medicine and supplies. Dental service, except for dentures and expensive bridge work, is covered by the insurance. The insurance fee in both countries is small, and for families with income less than \$2,000 a year, is less than \$20. A year. So far as one can learn from the reports from Great Britain, the scheme there, although very popular, is costing enormously more than was anticipated and bids fair to be a crushing drain on Government time and budget.

"There seems little doubt" says the Winnipeg Free Press "that Canada is headed for some form of health insurance, and that from the point of view at least of the great majority of the population, the time is ripe for it. But this

is no reason why we should rush into it without careful consideration of the factors involved. If there is any way of setting up and administering a medical insurance plan without the Government getting its whole hand in the pie, let us have it."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Clean up week ends.

Thirty more days till election.

Tomorrow Sunday after Ascension.

Close to 50,000 acres of Canadian farmland will be sprayed from the air with chemical dust this year.

The exceptionally fine picture "Johnny Belinda" which has been running all this week to crowded houses at the Prince Edward Theatre, completes its engagement tonight, and no doubt there will be a repetition this afternoon and evening of the large audiences which thoroughly enjoyed the performance to date.

According to the president of the Netherlands Agricultural Foundation the Low Countries would like to send more immigrants—especially farm labour, to Canada. If they utilize our farmland as effectively as they have done their own the gain would be this country's.

Because of financial difficulties, some ministers of the Church of Scotland receiving only the minimum stipend of £400 per year are being forced to take up part-time work. In some instances, their wives, too, are having to take part-time jobs. This was stated at a meeting of the Synod of Lathian and Tweeddale, in Edinburgh, when the report of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee was presented.

When the Royal Commission on Transportation starts its cross-country hearings at Winnipeg next week the matter of competitive rates as well as maximum rates should be gone into. The practice of voluntarily cutting rates where there is truck competition may be sound business practice but it forces up the rates which are claimed to be necessary on non-competitive hauls.

It has just been discovered that an old-time vaudeville star, Flora Esmond died in a squalid flat in New York in abject poverty, whereas, as a matter of fact she was worth at least \$110,000. The money had been deposited in various banks while she was on tour and only small notes kept by her of what she had done with the money. The trustee appointed under her will put on an advertising campaign which brought results from the various banks.

In the first six months of the National Health Service, nearly as many mothers having babies at home had analgesic relief—"painless birth" treatment—as in the whole twelve months 1947. The figures given by the Ministry of Health show that midwives employed by the local health authorities gave gas and air analgesia in over 40,000 home confinements during the six months, compared with 43,600 in the whole of 1947.

Though not unexpected, news of the death of ex-Mayor D. J. Riley will be learned with much regret throughout the Province. He was widely known and esteemed, and proved a very capable representative during his years of service as City Councillor, Chief Magistrate, and member of the City School Board. A life-long Liberal, he was a tower of strength to the party during his active years, and though himself defeated on the one occasion on which he sought political honors, he was instrumental in electing many other Liberal candidates to office.

John Lubbock, 1st Baron Avesbury, banker, politician, scientist and sociologist, died this date 1913. He sat in Parliament for Maidstone, and then London University, of which he became vice-chancellor. He was the author of several books, including Ants, Bees, and Wasps, Pleasures of Life, etc. Among other measures pertaining to the pleasures of life and the betterment of man he was instrumental in passing into law the Bank Holiday Act of 1871, the first recognition which the "white collar" worker obtained of his right to call certain week days, in addition to Sundays, his own, and on which he could not be called upon to work.

A drop in absenteeism, increased alertness of pupils and improvement in general health are revealed among many instances of direct health benefits to the school children of New Brunswick as a result of that province's school lunch program. These encouraging results of a program sponsored by the Nutrition Division of the New Brunswick Department of Health are revealed by the Bureau of Information and Tourist Travel of that province. Rural schools in seven counties were included in the 1948-49 program which got underway last fall, with two health department nutritionists and one from the Red Cross doing the organization work. This spring the three re-visited all schools in the counties concerned.

Mr. Edward Andrew Collard, associate editor of Montreal Gazette, has been giving the Gyo Club there some information on how a morning newspaper is run. He described some of the problems arising from the necessity of making rapid decisions under the pressure of deadlines and outlined some of the mechanical problems involved in producing each edition of a morning newspaper. He pointed out that the difficulties arise from the way in which each day brings new problems of its own. Mr. Collard emphasized that constructive criticism of a newspaper is always helpful. But criticism from those who claim to have been misquoted or misrepresented often arises from the fact that they have been reported only too accurately, he said. It is sometimes found that criticism of the press is not directed to the press at all, but takes the form of public attacks made by those who are often far from having a free press as their real objective. Anyone desiring good press relations could, he said, follow a simple formula—don't say foolish things.

The Poet's Corner

APPLE-PIE ORDER

"The finest dumpling apple in the world was the Bramley Seedling. The best Bramley Seedling was the English. England was, therefore, the source of the best apple dumplings in the world."—Lord Bledisloe to the House of Lords.

How nice in these days of dissent To find we are still a world leader! It soothes with a sense of content The harassed and dubious reader. Prestige has been pipped in some spheres.

With problems one constantly grapples, But take it as law from the Peers We have the best dumplings and apples.

Would Moscow agree? Perhaps not. If dumplings we sent for attention They'd probably snuff the whole lot.

As a formalist, bourgeois invention; They might even invoke Lake Success And start a new series of wrangles. Our dumplings, we fretfully confess, Should not be exposed to such tangles.

No-taking our lead from the Lords. We just insist firmly but sweetly That here is a dish that affords An insular triumph completely; Here fame and our flag are set fair Beyond any crushings or crumpings.

Go search the whole world, if you care, You cannot beat England for dumplings.

-Ludo, in the Manchester Guardian.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

BREAD REGULATIONS

Under an Act passed at the 1827 session of the General Assembly, an "Assize of Bread within the Town and County of Charlottetown" was established, and Justices of the Peace authorized "by and with the advice of His Majesty's Council, from time to time, as there shall be occasion, to cause the prices which the several sorts of meal and flour, fit and proper to make the different sorts of Bread which shall be allowed to be made within the said Town and County, shall, from time to time, sell at the mills, warehouses, or markets within the said Town and County."

Under this statute specific weights were established for penny-half-penny, three-penny, six-penny and shilling loaves offered for sale. The loaves had to be marked in which ought to be put therein, and common salt, pure water, eggs, milk, yeast and barm, or such leaven as shall be allowed to be put therein by the Justices which shall be put into the loaf of Charlottetown for any time not exceeding fourteen days, nor less than seven days, from the time of such commitment, as such Justice shall think fit; and if any servant or journeyman shall knowingly offend and be convicted thereof by consent of the Justices, he shall forfeit not more than Forty Shillings, nor less than Twenty Shillings, and shall be committed to the Gaol of Charlottetown for any time not exceeding fourteen days, nor less than seven days, from the time of such commitment, as such Justice shall think fit; and if any servant or journeyman shall knowingly offend and be convicted as aforesaid, he shall forfeit not more than Forty Shillings, nor less than Twenty Shillings, and shall be committed to the Gaol of Charlottetown for any time not exceeding fourteen days, nor less than seven days, from the time of such commitment, as such Justice shall think fit; 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