

THE GUARDIAN

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Editor and Managing Director, J. R. Burnett.
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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, OCT. 3, 1949

Strictly In Words

Note is taken in the Toronto Globe and Mail
of the Maritime complaint about the disadvan-
tage to this section of Canada of the imposition
of horizontal freight rate increases. The new
uling of an eight percent increase will probably
cost Maritime shippers \$3,200,000 a year. The
earlier 21 percent hoist cost them \$8,000,000 a
year. Ontario and Quebec do not suffer propor-
tionately—a fact which the Toronto paper freely
admits. It says:

"Far from disputing it, many in Ontario and
Quebec would completely accept it in principle.
These two Provinces are not in the position of
selfish exploiters who want to enjoy cheap trans-
port at the expense of other parts of the country.
They are merely reaping the benefits of their
geographic position and the competition of air
and highway carriers in their territory.

"These benefits, it is important to note,
come to them inevitably and automatically re-
gardless of what the Transport Commission may
rule. Suppose the Commission authorized the rail-
ways to get all the extra revenue they need from
Ontario and Quebec, as the Provinces best able
to afford it, the railways would almost certainly
find it impossible to comply. Raising their rates
here to the requisite level would lose them so
much business to truckers and airlines that the
cure would prove worse than the disease.

"Thus, as so often happens, justice in this
case is by no means a simple matter of soaking
the rich; and how the Maritimes and the West
are ever to have cheap transport, without a great
gain in population and industry, is hard to see.
But the recent rate boost was explicitly called a
temporary measure. The Royal Commission on
Transportation may bring up a formula which
will improve the position of the outlying
Provinces while meeting the railways' needs. If so,
it will have plenty of support in Central Canada."

"The 'support', however, will presumably be
stricter in words. Ontario and Quebec are the
only Provinces which have not joined in protest
against the Transport Board's previous rulings
and they have evidently no intention of doing so
in this case. We must continue to get along in
our representations without them; and they can
spare us their crocodile tears.

Churchill Needed

"Cutting the pound sterling was like splitting
the atom," observes The Christian Science Moni-
tor. There has been a world reaction, and it has
the gravest political implications. In the United
Kingdom there are spreading strikes and slow-
downs; France is affected as well. The Monitor
declares that the United States did not tell Brit-
ain to devalue the pound, but American interests
had a lot to do with it. Evidently that paper is
not impressed with the labor troubles in Brit-
ain, when it comments:

"At home, however, British leaders must
bear their responsibilities without reference to
external influences. What Britain appears to
need at this moment is leadership that can make
the people aware of an enemy when the foe
hides in trade statistics as when he stands in uni-
form on the Channel. It would be a help to have
someone around who can talk of the Briton's din-
ner pail as convincingly as Churchill talked of a
Briton's freedom.

"For it is evident from British reports that
the average Briton does not know his country's
security and his own are besieged. After Parlia-
ment meets, if elections must follow, we may see
a clearing of the air which, for the moment, ap-
pears to have been only super-charged by pound
devaluation."

World Food Distribution

An international clearing house for surplus
food stocks has been proposed by Mr. N. E. Dodd,
director-general of the Food and Agricultural Or-
ganization of the United Nations, and it is antici-
pated that some large-scale action, along this
line will be taken at the Organizations conference
in November.

It is claimed that food production now is
less than in pre-war years when 1,000,000,000 hu-
man beings were constantly undernourished. Since
then, too, the world's population has increased
by 200,000,000. Three-quarters of the inhabitants
of food-short countries go to bed hungry each
night. Yet surpluses are developing in some coun-
tries, particularly American wheat, corn, oil
seeds, and some animal products.

In the 1930's these conditions led to com-
petitive dumping that provoked import barriers.
Countries with surpluses resorted to restriction of
production and destruction of food. Some nations
tried to meet their own needs uneconomically.
France, for example, grew more wheat and dras-
tically reduced imports from Canada. Farm prices
fell and depression was intensified. The purpose
of the FAO plan is to prevent a return to this
state of affairs.

The proposed clearing house would help
move surplus food to countries in need. Accord-
ing to the Ottawa Citizen, it would be authorized
to acquire as capital the equivalent of five billion
dollars contributed by its members in food or
in their own currencies. To get supplies additional
to normal consumption, buying countries could
pay the full market price in their own presumably
convertible currencies or get cut-rate prices by
paying in other immediately acceptable currency.
By storing soft currency credits temporarily, the
clearing house would facilitate trade in food,
despite the dollar shortage.

The plan is regarded as more realistic than
the earlier project of a World Food Board that
by buying, storage, and selling policies would

have controlled prices as well as the flow of sup-
plies. It is similar to plans proposed by the Can-
adian Federation of Agriculture and the Interna-
tional Federation of Agricultural Producers, but
contemplates handling larger volumes of food
and provides a bridge over currency difficulties.
It would protect producers of surpluses from ruin,
encourage full production, and work for the re-
lief of hunger. In many lands, however, the foster-
ing of technical improvements in farming would
continue to be a major task for FAO.

EDITORIAL NOTES

In France and Italy it is festival of the vine
that outdoes all others in importance, but here
it is the potato festival.

The landscape of the Island is seen at its best
these days as will be realized by anyone who
travels by car to Borden or Summerside via Bon-
shaw. The beauty of the scenery at Churchill is
indescribable.

The Royal Commission on Transportation is
reported to be costing \$411,525. If it saves the
Maritimes and the Western Provinces say two mil-
lion a year it has earned its keep.

The Magdalens farm part of the province
of Quebec but the tale of their needs as told in
Parliament, strikes an even greater note here,
their closest neighbour, than in that Province.

George Bancroft, American historian and
statesman, born this date 1800, was governor of
Massachusetts in 1844, and U. S. minister at St.
James's 1846, later minister at Berlin in 1867. Is
best known for his famous History of the United
States.

It is curious that the Federal Bureau of Sta-
tistics which is so efficient in providing statistics
on all sorts of business is unable to inform the
House of Commons on the production cost per
pound of butter and margarine respectively. In
an agricultural country, one would have thought
that would be the first business it would be con-
cerned about; but, of course, none is so blind as
he who does not want to see.

Though the Bureau of Statistics cannot sup-
ply us with the cost of production of a pound
of butter or margarine, it reports that a survey
showed almost half Canada's domestic cookstoves
are fuelled by wood or coal. Cooking with gas
runs a poor second to the old-fashioned way of
fixing the family dinner, while electricity is a
fairly close third. More than two-thirds have
washing machines, most of them electrically-
operated. About 30 per cent enjoy mechanical re-
frigerators. Somewhat more than that own vac-
uum cleaners. Almost 94 per cent own radios.

An old and highly successful business in the
City has changed hands, and a busy citizen in
Summerside has transferred his interests wholly
to Charlottetown. Apart from his business Mr.
Hughes is known locally from his connection
with the Exhibition Association and curling. Mr.
Baker is a Charlottetownian, though since the war
he has been more closely identified with Mont-
ague and Summerside. He has been for some time
a member of the City School Board. He will now
concentrate all his business attention and ener-
gies in furthering the interests of the fine old
drug business he has acquired.

The Potato Festival which opens in the Forum
this evening combines the elements of good en-
tertainment with competition in quality produc-
tion of a vegetable which has made Prince Ed-
ward Island famous throughout the continent. The
potato displays and demonstration booths will
be well worth seeing, while the oldtime
fiddlers' contest, step-dancing, boxing and other
events will doubtless draw large crowds of en-
tertainment seekers. The Festival is under the
auspices of the P. E. I. Innkeepers' Association,
and it is expected that the entry list will be large
and representative.

There is always something to be thankful for.
In announcing that precipitation for the first 28
days of September totalled 3.56 inches, F. W.
Baker, weather official at the Dominion Experi-
mental Farm there, reminded Ottawa citizens that
heavy precipitation now would help avert a win-
ter electric power shortage. The 3.56 inches of
precipitation to date this month compared with
only 1.24 inches for the whole month of September
last year and an average September rainfall of
2.99 inches.

Montreal hotelmen have toted up their re-
ceipts, compared notes on U. S. tourist spending
and have arrived at an estimate of the season's
spendings in Montreal. The total was \$25,000,000
and the hotelmen say it is "a conservative esti-
mate." The hotelmen made their survey over a
four-month period and guessed that the individ-
ual tourist spent from \$25 to \$30 a day. At the
same time they are congratulating themselves
that the season, which usually falls off around
Labor Day, will continue for some time owing to
a continuation of daylight saving time till the
end of the present month.

The home in which Shakespeare's daughter
once lived has been bought by the Shakespeare
Birthplace Trust. Hall's Craft is a fine half-tim-
bered sixteenth century house in a charming gar-
den, and was the only historic building with
Shakespearean associations in Stratford-on-Avon
not owned by the Trust. It was the home for many
years of Shakespeare's daughter, Susanna, who
married a well-known physician, Dr. John Hall, in
1607. Apart from its associations, Hall's Craft is
an extremely picturesque house with many inter-
esting architectural features. It is considered the
best example of a Tudor town house in Strat-
ford-on-Avon. In recent years it has been owned
by Lady Elizabeth Montagu from whom the trust-
ees have bought it. If the Trust had not acquired
it, the house would have been sold by public auc-
tion.

PROBE RIVER'S SECRETS
VANCOUVER (OP) - Engi-
neers at the University of British
Columbia are determined to find
out why the lower Fraser River
floods each year. They are build-
ing a scale model of the river and
will make minute calculations of
water poured through the model.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the
discussion by correspondents
of questions of interest. The
Guardian does not neces-
sarily endorse the opinion of
correspondents.

TIMOTHY SEED PRICES

Sir,—In your issue of Sept. 30th
there appeared an item under the
heading of "Among the Farmers:
Federation of Agriculture News,"
re hayseed. "Timothy seed prices
here for some unknown reason,"
it stated, "are away below market
quotations—fourteen cents per lb.
from the threshers and seven and
eighteen cents after local
cleaning." The item advised farm-
ers to hold their seed or ship it
through the local co-operatives and
quoted a Montreal price for No. 1
timothy at thirty-four cents per lb.
The writer, although not a buy-
er or one actively engaged in
farming, became quite interested
in the Timothy seed business, and
had something to do with the
getting it ready for the market, and
is in a position to give first hand
information. The shipping of
Timothy seed is about through for
this Fall. Some of the farmers
may think that they have been
"gypped" by those that got their
seed. Some explanation is in
order.

It is now two months past since
Timothy was being bought and sold
on the Island—a new venture for
some of our Island farmers. Why did
the Federation not give this news
item then and give figures show-
ing items of cost, etc. before the
seed would grade No. 1? All bags
of seed, whether shipped in the
north or from the cleaner) was tagged
with the grower's name or num-
ber thereon; each lot would be
sampled and analyzed and weigh-
ed by the buyer at its destination
and this is expensive, and unless
the bags were of extra good qual-
ity and carefully sewn the shrink-
age might be quite heavy.

One buyer (he operated a seed
cleaning and grading plant) said
that the average amount taken
out by the cleaner was twelve
pounds to the cwt. Another buy-
er (he did not have a cleaner)
said that he had lost 10 per cent
of his seed. The Ontario farmer
said that work done besides the
weight the mill took out. Prem-
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