

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, THURSDAY, JAN. 15, 1948

P. E. I. Leads Again

Prince Edward Island farmers have reason to congratulate themselves, for according to figures cited by the Rt. Hon. James G. Gardiner, Federal Minister of Agriculture, their field crops grossed 23 per cent more in value last year than in the preceding year, constituting the highest increase of any Province in Canada.

Table with columns: P.E.I., N.S., N.B., Que., Ont., Man., Sask., Alta., B.C., Canada. Rows show 1947 and 1946 values and percentage change.

Scientific Research

The possibilities of scientific research in bringing new and important achievements in industry, in agriculture and in medical science, are shown again in the year-end review of the National Research Council.

Greater expansion of research, at government expense and by private industry, would be profitable to Canada, the Research Council advises. Dr. C. J. Mackenzie, president of the council, recently suggested that at least one per cent of the national income from production should be spent on government and private research.

Types Of Education

Commenting on a community drive for facilities for more technical training, the Winnipeg Free Press observes: "By all means let us have the best that experience can provide and Oh Lord deliver us from confusing the best with the acquiring of gadgets."

Education's dangers at this time are the twin menaces of evasion and pretense. It is quite true that there is cultural training in vocational studies, but to quote Sir Richard: "It is a wholly different cultural training from one which introduces the pupil to the great masters of thought and imagination, helps him towards seeing the world through their eyes, and gives him at least a glimpse of the highest levels reached by the human mind."

that all attainments are equal. There is enough truth in this contention to make it arguable, and there is more than enough falsehood to run the imminent risk of sacrificing the first rate by accepting lower intellectual and cultural levels and making these the criteria.

EDITORIAL NOTES

It is to be hoped the failure of the firm supplying stone for the Tormentine new ferry wharf is not going to delay that important project.

The Province is once more represented by Mr. J. Gordon MacDonald on the directorate of the Canadian Retail Federation.

It was expected the Legislature would be summoned for February 2, but the various departments claim they cannot have their reports ready for so early a date.

Revenue Minister McCann's recent utterance on farmers who have not been paying income tax is full of foreboding. "There has not been a loss," he is reported to have said, "but a deferment of payment."

Prime Minister Mackenzie King will address a Liberal Party dinner in Ottawa on 20th in connection with meetings of the National Advisory Council of the National Liberal Federation being held there Jan. 19, 20 and 21.

The Income Tax Department at Ottawa is still without a deputy minister due to the resignation a few months ago of Mr. Frank H. Brown. The Prime Minister has advised inquirers that an appointment will be made "shortly."

English politics are sometimes confusing to the uninitiated. The intelligent foreigner, for instance, is apt to look quite unwarrantably wise when informed that the official title of the chief Government Whip is Patronage Secretary to the treasury.

We have had many plans for increased housing accommodation in Charlottetown and something has always prevented their adoption. It is to be hoped that the plan now before the City Council will not meet the fate of its predecessors.

Parliament has a great deal of business before it when it resumes shortly. If the means of speeding up proceedings are not more effective than they were before Christmas members may yet have cause to be thankful for the air conditioning equipment.

The analyses of the Chief Justice of the cases of prisoners in the Charlottetown jail shows conclusively that drink is mostly the cause of arrests and detentions. The question arises was it bootleg or vendor's "medicines," and if the former what are the police doing in detection of the source, and if the latter what is the Government doing to enforce our so-called Prohibition?

Right Rev. Monsignor MacKenzie will be receiving congratulations from the hosts of graduates who have passed through his hands at St. Dunstan's. Apart altogether from his scholastic success in his quarter-of-a-century at that centre of light and learning, he has long been recognized as one of the intellectuals of the Province.

The latest suggestion is that the City retain the market building, and, when the lease of the bowling alley expires, set up headquarters for the bus service. Certain property owners and City Councillors deem it unwise to sacrifice the present cent in rent and taxes for the prospective dollar later on when the City develops north and west as it is rapidly doing.

Henry Dupre Labouchere, English journalist, died this date 1912; after leaving university he entered the diplomatic service, but left it to take up politics; was Daily News correspondent in Paris during the siege 1870-1; founded Truth, a weekly society journal in 1876 which was successful in the exposure of a number of social, financial and administrative scandals; he was M. P. for Middlesex 1867-8, and for Northampton 1880-1905; was a member of the Jamieson Raid Commission in 1896.

The "One World" ideal is on the shelf for the time being due to the failure of the Western powers to find any ground for common action with Russia. Efforts must now be directed to organizing the non-Russian world and to defining its boundaries so as to reduce to a minimum the sources of friction until such time as the Soviet will be prepared to participate.

The pitiable plight of the people in England due to weather conditions is beyond description. Drought in summer, floods in winter leave them high and dry and water enveloped alternately with little prospect of reaping crops or winter ploughing. Surely the call of the Red Cross and similar agencies for help to the sufferers will receive a still more hearty response from those who have and to spare.

Notes By The Way

The outstanding political leader of the Sikhs predicts war between India and Pakistan in six months or a year. There may be an element of wishful thinking in this. The Sikhs, as a minority group under ambitious political leadership, are a warlike people with dreams of autonomy. They have been more completely severed than any other group of India-Pakistan boundaries, and have played a dominant role in some of the worst communal "disturbances" subsequent to partition.

The high cost of new motor cars have promoted the business of stealing and bootlegging. It is apparently quite a big racket in the past, where the layer cities provide greater opportunity. Cars are stolen in Montreal and sold in Toronto, or vice versa, etc., after repainting, grinding out serial numbers and other disguising. Legitimate used car dealers are among those tricked. You don't get your money back if you buy a car which the other fellow had no right to sell. Neither are Port Arthur and Port William too small nor so remote from Winnipeg on the west or Toronto and Montreal on the east that stolen cars cannot be driven in there. "Caveat emptor" is an old principle of law. It means let the buyer beware. Among other things, deal only with established firms or people whom you know well enough to trust. — Port Arthur News-Chronicle.

Do you know that ants and spiders sing? That termites whistle. That flies scream, and that weavils clatter and bang when boring wood? They do, declares a scientist from the Washington Post. We don't hear them because human ears are not attuned to these sounds, but if science continues to progress we may yet tune in on an ant orchestra, or listen to the rustle of spider strings. Magnified powerfully, practically nothing is soundless. Not even the air, nor a blade of grass growing. Our ears naturally embrace only the octave between the scientist points out. Music embraces seven. The cry of a bat is said to be an octave higher than the chirp of a sparrow. Ant music is shriller still. The microphone picks up sounds never heard before, opening up to human ears a world of research as suddenly fathomable as the world the microscope opened up to the human eye. — Guelph Mercury.

As a blueprint for recovery this (Aitlee) program would seem to indicate an "all-out" effort. Actually, it can be that or it can be considerably less, depending on the manner in which it is followed through. "Targets" do not, themselves, solve any problems, as we have unhappily seen in British cases during the last two years. Moreover, when one turns to such a vital area as coal production and notes that the five-day week is to be maintained under the program, modified only to the extent of asking the mines to work for a limited period, "an extra half hour a day" one wonders how austere the new austerity plan really is going to be. However, this is no time for prejudice about "the chain of events" starting with the plan of which there was little evidence as recently as a month ago. And there is a new courage in the declaration of Mr. Aitlee that, "But, since the program is being led by Secretary Marshall's speech will lead to further help for the recovery of the Old World, we can not and will not base our plans on that assumption." — New York Times.

You hear of them often. They are on everyone's lips. Go where you will, enter any sphere of activity, and you will hear them discussed. They have been called, "The Mysterious 'They'." Recall recent conversations. Perhaps you will remember some of the phrases used. "Why don't THEY do something about it?" "Why don't THEY act?" "What are THEY thinking about?" "The mysterious 'They' are blamed for everything that goes wrong. And who are THEY? Jesus said, 'But, since the program is being led by Secretary Marshall's speech will lead to further help for the recovery of the Old World, we can not and will not base our plans on that assumption.'" — New York Times.

"Glad Tidings" The word gospel formerly meant good story or glad tidings. In any way, are as hard and unyielding as a granolithic sidewalk. There was, moreover, no attempt on the part of the builders to conform to the shape of the human body. Our ancestors who made their regular appearances in church must have been built of stern, Puritanical stuff to withstand such punishment Sunday after Sunday in a day when long services and long sermons were the rule. We who are of weaker and softer material, who are accustomed to comforts which they did not enjoy; and who like padding to protect our persons might turn up more frequently in church if pews were cushioned, not for the sake of looting but just to ease our aching bones and muscles. — Brockville Recorder and Times.

Can there be any relationship between the decline in church attendance of which so many congregations complain and the fact that pews or seats in many of these buildings are anything but comfortable. This is particularly true of older churches, of which there are so many in this long-established part of the country. The built-in pews, rarely cushioned, are

Prices And Price Control

(Sydney Post-Record) It is not surprising to hear many say in these days of rising prices that price controls should be re-imposed. The democratic press and the so-called "people's party," the C. C. F., are prominent in the agitation for the restoration of these controls. Significantly enough, they make no mention of restoration of wage controls which is inevitable if price controls are to return, or of higher taxes, which are inevitable if price controls are to be restored by subsidies, which is the only method.

The advances in meat prices, announced a week ago, are of course encouraging the latest campaign for price controls, and give, an impetus to the demagogic cry. Even before these latest advances, many of which can only be explained by rank profiteering, the demagogues had the encouragement of a Gallup "discovery" that, "if a referendum were held in Canada today the vote would be three to one in favor of restoring price controls."

Indeed, the poll, published December 27, showed that 76 per cent of those it had questioned said, "Yes, to its proposition. Only 14 per cent said No, the remaining 10 per cent being undecided, or too confused to guess. But what was the question? Do you think the Government should put price controls on again or not? Just that, which is tantamount to asking: Would you like to get rich? Who wouldn't? To be sure, would like to have a state where prices cannot rise beyond a fixed level while they remain free to earn as much as their efforts and talents permit. This is precisely what Mr. Coldwell and the other demagogues would have the people believe can happen. If the Gallup Poll had put the question properly, and if the demagogues would state their intentions honestly, this is how it would read: Do you think the Government should put price controls on again and restore the ceilings on wages? No, just is not possible to have one without the other. To be sure, Mr. Coldwell and company will pretend that it is. And to bolster the argument they will cite what has happened in Britain and ring the magic words, "subsidization." But there are several factors which invalidate the argument, including the fact that Britons are rationed, on everything that is subsidized and taxed as never before, both on their incomes and on consumer goods which are unrationed.

Significantly, when the pollers asked whether price controls were favored even if they meant "an increase in taxes" the yes dropped to 44 per cent. Some Canadians, at least, learned during the war that subsidies are but another term for taxes. And incidentally one of the reasons why rising prices have been such a squeeze on the household budget, is that the Government made no effort to return to the taxpayers that portion of their taxes which it collected to pay subsidies and which it has stopped paying. It is this unexplained, and possibly unexplainable, run up in prices which increases the public demand for the restoration of price controls. Controls only attack the symptoms of inflation and do not effect a cure. In fact, they can make the cure more remote, but when consumers see meat prices jumping the roof, and a pound overnight it is not surprising that they demand preventive action by the government. But there are even more than wage ceilings and extra taxation to be considered in the restoration of price controls. There is the not insignificant task of assembling the machinery capable of freezing both wages (the provinces being willing) and prices and keeping them so. It is a formidable task. Lacking the patriotic incentive of the war emergency, assembly of that machinery could be extremely difficult if not impossible. Lacking that incentive and the patriotic machinery of price control could result only in a flourishing black market. This even the demagogues must know.

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The Poets Corner

DEATH It is not death... That this warm conscious flesh shall perish quite, And all life's ruddy springs forget to flow... It is not death to know this — but to know That pious thoughts, which visit at new graves In tender pilgrimage, will cease to go So dutily and so oft — and when grass waves Over the pass'd-away, there may be then No resurrection in the minds of men. — Thomas Hood.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.)

HEAVYWEIGHTS The good hostess of the Rankin House was most astonished, on Wednesday evening, when she beheld seated at the dinner table five of the largest and heaviest men on Prince Edward Island. It is not remarkable on an occasion of this kind that a hostess should entertain grave fears of the pantry supply not being equal to the demand; and we learn that a panic among the waiters was only averted by the timely remark: "Big men are small eaters." Below we give the initials and respective weights of the gentlemen: Capt. J. S., Georgetown, 282 lbs. Mr. W. G. D., City, 282 lbs. Mr. C. J. H., Bate View, 243 lbs. Capt. A. C., City, 235 lbs. Mr. J. J. D., City, 230 lbs. Total, 1,242 lbs. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, send along your heavyweights! — Weekly Examiner, April 30 1880.

What's The Answer?

(Ottawa Journal) Under the new bacon contracts the British Government is paying an additional 57 per hundredweight (seven cents a pound) for No. 1 Wiltshire sides. This increase gives the Canadian farmer a higher price for all his hogs, irrespective of whether they go into the domestic or export market. It also gives the packer, selling to the wholesale and retail trade, an increase in the price of pork of seven cents a pound. No objection to that. How come, though, that consumers are being asked to pay, not seven cents a pound, but up to 20 cents a pound more than they paid before the British bacon price was announced? The Toronto Telegram, which conducted a survey of its own, found that the price of smoked ham had risen 12 cents a pound, the price of pork loin 10 cents a pound, and the price of side bacon 20 cents a pound. It says and asks: "With the increase ranging all the way from seven cents on shoulder cuts to 20 cents for bacon it is evident that the total increase on a Wiltshire side is greater than the increase in the price of the British contract and higher than the price passed on by the packer to the retailer. What the public wants to know is why an increase of seven cents a pound mentioned by the packers should emerge as a 20 cents increase when the pork passes over the counter?" Standard explanation of most price increases has been that they were due to higher wages. Have there been any wage increases in the meat industry since the British contracts were announced? We haven't heard of any.

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