

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than the Weakest Ink." CHARLOTTETOWN TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1948

On The Sidelines

In an Ottawa despatch in yesterday's issue it was reported that "while none of the four Prince Edward Island members have been appointed to the Prices Committee, they have the traditional right of sitting on the sidelines while the hearings are in progress. Further they can easily secure the cooperation of their colleagues on the committee to ask one or a series of questions on prices of such commodities as affect the Province."

Time For A Showdown

An exchange cites two major reasons why the Provinces are entitled to a re-allocation of the taxes collectable in Canada, which should add at least \$200,000,000 to the total of the statutory subsidies and governmental allowances accorded to them at Confederation. One is the enormous increase, in this 81st year since the organization of the Dominion, of the cost of discharging properly the administrative functions and obligations for which they are responsible under the provisions of the British North American Act. The other is an extraordinary expansion of the revenue-producing value of the field of direct taxation. In the first year of Confederation, the revenues of the Dominion totalled \$13,717,000, of which over \$13,000,000 came from customs, excise and other forms of indirect taxation. In this 81st year of Confederation the national revenues will approximate \$3,000,000,000, of which fully two-thirds, or about \$2,000,000,000, will be derived from the various sources of direct taxation. And yet these direct taxation sources were earmarked for the Local Governments by the Fathers of Confederation.

Premier Maurice Duplessis of Quebec, a sturdy champion of Provincial rights, has stated on several occasions that the Provinces have "priority" claims over the Dominion in the whole field of direct taxation. This contention is supported fully by the language of the British North American Act, as well as by the interpretative judicial decisions rendered by the Privy Council. Section 91, sub-section 3, of the B. N. A. Act gives the Dominion the right of "the raising of money by any mode or system of taxation." Section 92, sub-section 2 gives the Provinces the right of "direct taxation in the Province, in order to the raising of revenues for Provincial purposes." The net result is to confer a monopoly on the Dominion over indirect taxation, as well as to give it the right to share the direct taxation field with the Provinces. Obviously the financial needs of the Provinces must first be satisfied out of the direct taxation field, if the Federal system is to function at all.

Nevertheless the Federal authorities have crowded the Provinces out of the direct taxation sources of personal and business incomes, and have bargained seven of them out of inheritance and corporation taxes as well. These categories of taxation all belong to the "direct" field, on which the Provinces have first claim, but from which the Dominion is coolly collecting approximately \$2,000,000,000 this fiscal year, offering the Provinces less than one-eighth that much to compensate them for vacating virtually the whole field. The bargain is one-sided, manifestly unfair to the Provinces, and in flat conflict with basic provisions of the Canadian constitution.

New Blight Of Oats

Characteristic symptoms of the new blight of oats, caused by a fungus known as helminthosporium victoriae, are brownish lesions at the base of infected plants, accompanied by a stripping and reddening of the lower leaves which progresses to the upper ones.

This new blight of oats was found in 1947 for the first time in Canada where it has been recorded from all provinces except Alberta, says Dr. W. C. Broadfoot, Division of Botany and Plant Pathology, Dominion Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. It was first observed in the field in the United States in 1945. Since then, it has become more widespread and the damage more severe there each year, presumably due to the wide distribution of susceptible oat varieties and the consequent increase of the fungus on the seed and in the soil.

Susceptible oat varieties are those that have the variety Victoria as a parent and possess its resistance to crown rust. The widespread distribution of such varieties in recent years has been one of the chief factors favouring the development of this new blight. Another contributing factor is the failure of seed treatment to control infection once the fungus becomes established in the soil. In 1947, delayed planting seems to have intensified the damage caused by the disease, as it is known that warm soil favours its development.

Tests made at Ottawa indicate that Canadian farmers who intend to plant susceptible varieties, such as Beacon, Garry, and Vicland, would be well advised to treat their seed with a recommended organic mercury dust at least two weeks before seeding. They should increase the rate of seed treatment from one-half to

three-quarters of an ounce per bushel. Although seed treatment will control infection arising from disease seed, it will not control infection arising from infected soil. Seeding of susceptible varieties should be done as early as possible in the spring, and of land on which susceptible varieties have not been grown for at least two years.

EDITORIAL NOTES

One week till the opening of the Legislature. Some light should soon be shed on dark corners.

Indications are that Farmers' Week will produce some lively discussions, and perhaps put the competing Legislature in the shade.

It seems a pity that the milking contest between the two members of the Canadian House of Commons did not come off. When it comes to milking, a Liberal and a C. C. F. politician would put up a pretty good show.

Accurate schedule rating for fire insurance purposes has many advantages. It is, of course, fairer than less systematic rate setting and also by accurately reflecting risk conditions in the rate it stimulates the improvement of fire risks.

A movement is afoot in the city to induce the government to amend the Daylight Saving legislation to permit the City and towns the right to regulate their own hours. At present the Government has no option but to enforce uniform time for the whole Province.

When only 2,500 are eligible to vote in the Charlottetown civic elections out of a population of over fourteen thousand the Council can hardly be regarded as having a popular mandate. One of its first concerns should be to look into the matter of extending the franchise for future elections.

H. M. S. Cossack with great daring entered Norwegian Fjord this date 1940, and a boarding party rescued 300 British prisoners from the German auxiliary naval vessel Altmark taken from British ships sunk by Graf Spee. The Norwegian government protested to Britain that her neutrality had thus been violated. The rescued prisoners were landed at Leith, Scotland. Meantime Norway announced she was preparing to put the Altmark case before the League of Nations. Decorations, including six D. S. O.'s, were announced for 72 of the Graf Spee victors.

Owing to shipping restrictions there is little prospect of developing the port of Churchill this year. One British firm had doubled its lumber order to 10,000,000 feet of spruce to be shipped to the United Kingdom this summer, but under existing regulations would have to cancel the order. The British say food must come first with them and if they have only so much money to spend it must be used for food. Wheat, however, would enter the food category, and it is believed quantity of exports of this commodity through Churchill will be maintained. Nearly 5,000,000 bushels were exported last summer, a record amount.

Manitoba, like other provinces, appears to be going ahead financially. A \$4,291,602 surplus of provincial revenue over expenditures for the 11-month period ended March 31, 1947, was reported in the Manitoba Legislature by Premier Garson. Public accounts for the period, tabled by the Premier, showed total revenues at \$24,018,948, with expenditures reaching \$19,737,346. The surplus was \$194,136 short of the estimate given by Mr. Garson in his budget speech last March 27. He said the difference was accounted for by extra accrued school grants. The accounts showed a net reduction of \$372,951 in capital debt.

The Senate's Tourist Committee wants to know how many United States tourists actually stay in Canada for any length of time. It agreed to ask the Bureau of Statistics to prepare a breakdown of the figures on American visitors, by which it would be possible to tell how many came only for days or week-ends, and how many spent some weeks in Canada. The point was brought up by three Liberal Senators who have doubts on the subject. Senator W. A. Buchanan (L.-Alberta) committee chairman, and Senator James Murdoch (L.-Ontario). Senator W. Rupert Davies (L.-Ontario) said his observations were that American visitors last year were not as free in spending their money as they were the year before.

Four years ago, on February 17, 1944, a fearless British Army major from Duncan, Vancouver Island, gave his life in a heroic charge through a hail of machine-gun fire to annihilate the garrison of a Japanese-held hill on the Burma front. For his outstanding gallantry, leadership and total disregard for personal safety, Major Charles Ferguson Hoey, 30, was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. His citation, in part, reads: "After a night march through enemy-held territory the force was met at the foot of the position by heavy machine-gun fire. Although wounded at least twice in the leg and head, he seized a Bren gun from one of his men, and, firing from the hip, led his company on to the objective. In spite of wounds the company had difficulty in keeping up with him, and Major Hoey reached the enemy strong post first, where he killed all of the occupants before being mortally wounded." It was not the first time this brave soldier had demonstrated his courage and leadership. On July 5, 1943, for his part in a raid on Maungdon, Burma, he was awarded the Military Cross, while a few months previous, he had been mentioned in despatches after another Burma action. Major Hoey received his early education at Duncan, and went to England in 1933 to make a career of the Army. Following his graduation in 1937 from Sandhurst, he was commissioned in the Lincolnshire Regiment. He was serving on the northwest frontier in India when World War II broke out.

Notes By The Way

The other day as we were struggling to get off our local bus, we fell to wondering why the rush hour always seems more crowded in Winter than Summer. We asked a friend who works for a transportation company. "Don't you realize," he said, "that passengers are 10 to 20 pounds heavier and half a foot bigger around in Winter?" "No," we said, "Why?" "Overcoats!"—This Week.

The good behavior of the inhabitants of Hunnebostrand, a small place near Gothenburg, Sweden, has for many years been a source of embarrassment to the local prison authorities. The continued lack of any kind of offender has now resulted in the decision to close the local prison altogether and to offer its entire stock of convicts' costumes—numbering three—for sale by auction.—London Times.

It is a thousand pities that Mr. Churchill's desire that the great assault against Germany should be in the Balkans was not carried out. Had it been, Russia would not be in the favorable position that she is in today. Austria and the Balkans would today be under the control of England and our own country. Mr. Churchill was as far-sighted as our own President was nearsighted; Mr. Churchill was as magnanimous as Mr. Roosevelt was mean. Nor would Mr. Churchill have been willing to appease Russia as Mr. Roosevelt quite evidently was. He had to yield to Roosevelt, a man whose knowledge of war and statesmanship was much less than his.—San Francisco Argonaut.

If it's One World, then that must mean the Eskimos, too. Arnold Toynbee, the most distinguished historian of our day, when asked what group of people stood their best chance of surviving an atomic war, nominated the Eskimos. They remember the strategic importance of the North Pole in an age of rocket projectiles. He quickly revised his answer and nominated the pygmies of central Africa. So the pygmies of central Africa, it appears, are our brothers under the bearskin. Political pessimists who predict a new ice age of reaction may learn from them how to dig in for the duration—with a minimum of blubber. But Americans who have spent a cold and energetic winter digging out of an igloo-like garage are likely to give some stiff opposition to the predicted freezing over of the status quo. After all, they're no pygmies.—Christian Science Monitor.

The story accepted by British intelligence officers who specifically reported upon Hitler's last days and his end has it that the bunkers were carried up to the bunker, or dugout, situated and were cremated on the ground nearby. Enough gasoline was poured over them to consume the remains. A member of the Northern Miner staff visited the bunker in 1944 and received the feeling that if Hitler died it was in the common purpose. The proposal seems to have been rejected by the acting Governor. The day appointed for the execution was at hand. No substitute could be found and the Provost had only one way to escape and he took that way. He resigned. It was not for the executive to solve the problem. They tried to fill the vacant office, but no one could be beguiled or coerced into accepting it until the prisoner was released.—From an article by the late Chief Justice J. A. Mathieson.

The rather amusing story of the East Cornwall man, whose death was "rumored" so convincingly that his friends called to offer condolences and an organization of which he was a member passed a resolution of sympathy, is a practical example of the way a rumor can spread and grow. This story, apparently, was passed entirely by word of mouth. How it started, we don't know—but we're willing to bet that in the initial version, the man wasn't "dead" at all. Someone else heard it, misunderstood, and added a few embellishments of his own. By the time it had made the rounds it had developed into quite a graphic tale, complete with an allegedly eyewitness account of a man who saw the supposed victim collapse and die on his own doorstep.—Cornwall Standard-Freelander.

Our law enforcement officers are getting "soft." Time was when a crime was committed the authorities worked fast and hard and there was no let-up until justice was meted out. Today they go at it more seriously, depend too much on what we call modern conveniences—the telephone, radio, equipped police cars, and motor cycles—all good in their place, but far from being effective in cases that call for real good old-fashioned sleuthing and digging after facts. Get the police out of their comfy, well-equipped motor cars away from their radios and their phones, let them hunt criminals without the aid of horn-buzzing motorcycles. Get them off well equipped cars and back on their feet. It won't be an easy thing to do but it is almost certain to secure results, something we are not getting today.—St. Thomas Times-Journal.

Death of two elderly women in a fire which swept the Belleville Home for Aged People is a stern warning to other municipalities to use the greatest care in supervising such institutions, and indeed all buildings where a fire might

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.

LENTE MEDITATIONS (From The Times) QUALITY OF SAINTSHIP The qualities pronounced blessed by Christ are always those which are most needed in the world. There are needed men who count themselves as nothing in the sight of God. They are already inhabitants of His Kingdom; they carry His influence wherever they go. There are needed men whose hearts are broken by the pain and anguish of the world; the heart that is broken by the world can be mended by the world's redeemer; by such men others are made strong to face the tragedy which every man must meet. There are needed men who set no store upon their own importance, but are wholly reliable. There are needed incorruptible men, who have a burning passion for honesty in public affairs, whose own unswerving reputations set a challenge to others and drive out deceit. There are needed men of mercy, men of sincerity, peacemakers who radiate God's unifying influence wherever men are divided, whether it be in the family of the nations or in human families. There are needed those who will face any opposition and misrepresentation rather than be disloyal to God's truth. The greatest need of the world is, indeed, for saints. The potential supply is as great in this age as in any other. For saints are made from ordinary men and women, who turn to God and accept His influence in their lives. In the remembrance of the saints they have known men have cause to rejoice, to thank God, and to go forward with good heart.

The Poet's Corner FULL AND BY A rushing, as of roc's wings, Over the sea, echoed the eolic creek Of gear and yards. The binnacle's pale spark Was flickering. A lingering last Of crimson lit the low West, like a fire. And a weather backstay boomed like a basso lyre. Sharp, silver bell strokes sounded through the night. The high ship heeled, and her rimmed rigging swung. As her bow was boiled, with pallid pulsing light, And the great, curved courses carried her along Out where the stormy petrels, ceaselessly, Went by, like ghosts, against the salty sea. —Walter W. Stephen in The New York Times.

All This In Toronto (Ottawa Journal) On Sunday last Cardinal McGuigan enjoined upon his flock that they abstain from liquor during Lent. Little could His Eminence have imagined the strange doings he was starting. There's a provincial belyection on in Huron. Cardinal McGuigan, cautious man that he is known to be, would no more think of throwing his red hat into that ring than he would think of turning Moslem. Well, the Toronto Star, looking around for anything with which to beat George Drew, promptly snatched the hat off His Eminence's head and threw it into the Huron ring for him. In an editorial captioned "Politicians versus Prelates" it put Drew in one corner and McGuigan in the other, with the Cardinal's second none other than the Very Reverend Dr. Leslie Pidgeon, former Moderator of the United Church (he having said something about liquor, too), and shouted: "Cardinal McGuigan, Dr. Pidgeon, the churches generally... have shown where they stand. It remains for the electors of Huron County to show on February 18 where they stand. If they are true to the best traditions of that fine county, Messrs. Blackwell and Drew will learn that more than a corporal's guard in Ontario deplore the Government's cocktail legislation and the casting of Government's slurs on the noble men and women who devote their lives to giving leadership to the cause of religion and morals." The Toronto Globe and Mail, standing not far from the ring-side, was enraged, came out to thunder this: "Unbridled hate is a vicious thing. Not only the hated suffer from it. Corroding every segment of decency, as it eventually does it permits, indeed seems to stimulate the most unjust and despicable treatment of others. Certainly there can be no word but despicable adequately to describe the Toronto Star's abuse of the pastoral letter which Cardinal McGuigan addressed to the members of the Catholic faith on Sunday. In its effort to use it to embarrass the Ontario Government with the electors of Huron County the Liberal organ has shown both contempt for his exalted position and utter disrespect for the Christian function which his appeal was intended to fulfil." No further word from the Cardinal, who has probably decided that the best thing he can do is to say his prayers.

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) JOB WENT VACANT In 1778 a woman was sentenced to death on a conviction of robbery. Full preparations were made for the execution. Captain Thomas Mellish, a retired army officer, who was at that time acting Provost Marshal or Sheriff, issued advertisements throughout the Island offering a large sum as a reward to the person who would undertake to execute the sentence. No response came. He suggested that the event be postponed until the opening of navigation when he expected that some one from the "continent" would be found for the purpose. The proposal seems to have been rejected by the acting Governor.

Is It Justified? (Sydney Post-Record) The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's annual report, issued the other day, shows a loss of \$27,000 on the year's operations. This deficit is made up despite the assistance of a radio receiver's fee which listeners across the border who get better radio programs are not obliged to pay, and regular advertising revenues.

If one were to permit himself a broad general criticism of CBC radio programs, it would probably be that CBC stations carry too many talks, forums, and such, and not enough music. A sense of humor is sadly lacking in most of these talking programs; they are pretty stodgy, sombre affairs. If this criticism is true, it is scarcely surprising to learn that in at least one aspect of its broadcasting of non-commercial, talking programs, the CBC's International services, the Corporation spent \$881,621 last year, which "under special arrangement is recoverable from the Federal Government," says the CBC report. Presumably these "international services" include talks by a European commentator nearly every night, generally a rehash of news long before made public in the press or over the radio, and the operation of CBC bureaux in London and Paris. Since this large amount of money

endanger lives. Sustained cold spells such as we have just experienced put a considerable strain on heating equipment and the quantity mean that pipes become dangerous. Accordingly it is highly advisable to keep a close watch on furnaces and pipes as well as to see that facilities are provided to evacuate people—particularly aged and infirm who are not able to walk or are liable to become confused—in case of emergency. This seems to be about the worst time of the year for fires and so it becomes necessary to be more vigilant than usual. London Free Press.

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