

THE GUARDIAN

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"The Strongest Memory is Weaker Than
the Weakest Ink"

CHARLOTTETOWN, MONDAY, NOV. 28, 1949

No Request Needed

Field Marshal Sir William Slim gave a
broad hint in Ottawa last week that an im-
portant Canadian contribution to the de-
fence of the Western world would be the
training of British and Western European
troops in this country. The Chief of the
Imperial General Staff made it clear that
the offer of such facilities would be very
gratefully received in the countries involved.
All too often in the past, as for instance in
the case of the Berlin Air Lift, the Canadian
Government has stood pat with the
weak explanation that our cooperation had
not been requested. With the well known
sensitivity of this country to any suggestion
of British "dictation" it is highly unlikely
that any official request for any particular
action by us will ever be made by the
British Government. If we are to make
good our claim to sovereign independence
we must take the initiative in offering to
contribute to the common safety.

Australian War History

By far the biggest literary work ever
undertaken in Australia is the Common-
wealth's Official History of Australia in the
War of 1939-45. About one-third of it is
finished, reports the Australian News Let-
ter. On completion, it will contain approxi-
mately 6,000,000 words and will have cost
about £200,000.

Gavin Long, the official historian in
charge of the production of these 22 vol-
umes, believes that they will be finished by
1953, except for one volume, which will be
completed in 1954.

C. E. W. Bean took 23 years to record in
12 volumes Australia's part in the First
World War, and his 4,000,000-word work is
now recognized as a model for all war
historians. More than half of that history
was written by Dr. Bean himself, however,
whereas the present work is being under-
taken by 13 writers. The "Official History
Australia in the War of 1939-45" is being
edited and supervised by Gavin Long, who
will himself write only two volumes.

This achievement is a reminder of the
fact—shameful to the government and peo-
ple of this country—that the Official History
of the Canadians in World War One has
never yet been completed. A first volume
was issued some years ago, ending in the
second Battle of Ypres in April, 1915. "The
rest is silence."

Pensions And Jobs

Mr. Bruce Hutchinson, one of Canada's
most brilliant journalists, takes a forceful
punch at the current fallacy that national
welfare can be promoted by retiring people
from gainful employment at ages when they
still could be productive. Writing in the
Vancouver News-Herald, he says:

"We are only beginning to discover the
wonders of economics. If compulsory re-
tirement at 65 will provide more work and
prosperity for everybody clearly compulsory
retirement at 60 will provide still more
work and prosperity. If we would only
force men to stop working and producing
at 50 we would begin to usher in a truly
abundant life.

"Even that is still only a timid begin-
ning. When we elect a government with
enough courage and intelligence to compel
retirement at 25 we shall really begin to
get somewhere. And later on, as we gain
a better understanding of economics, we
shall make everybody rich by prohibiting
the crime of work altogether. Retire all
children at the age of 12, never let them
be sucked into the vice of labor, keep them
out of temptation's way and then at last the
economic age will dawn.

"If you doubt this economic logic just
consider what mischief a man commits
when he works in his later years. He may
do it quite unconsciously and with the best
of intentions, I admit, but the economic con-
sequences are always the same. He pro-
duces something, that's the trouble, he pro-
duces something. Thus he keeps himself
instead of allowing his children or the state
to keep him.

"Two inevitable results follow. First, the
state does not spend as much as it would
otherwise and that, as everyone knows,
spreads poverty everywhere. If enough re-
bellious old men insisted on working and
producing, the state might even reduce taxes
and where would we be then? Second, if
younger men did not have to support the
old there wouldn't be enough work to go
around, nobody would have a job except the
old men who, by producing wealth and
keeping themselves, had started the vicious
spiral of depression."

"One finds it difficult, therefore, to ex-

cuse such men as Mr. Churchill who dis-
regard the public interest and keep on
working. Why, by next spring Mr. Chur-
chill may well prevent some promising
young man from becoming Prime Minister
just as he did during the war.

"Now that we know the facts no further
excuses can be accepted. The old man who
works, produces wealth and keeps himself is
the enemy of society. He deserves to be
banished, hidden away, forgotten and kept
by the work of others. A trout stream or a
petunia bed is good enough for a fellow
like that."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Twenty-seven more days till Christmas.

The oysters and the chickens hold the
spotlight these days.

"The Times", London, was first printed
by steam this date 1814. Previously printed
by hand labour, it is now operated by
electricity.

California is soon to have a monorail
system carrying aluminum aircraft fuselage
type cars slung under tandem wheels, clear-
ing the ground by sixteen feet. Speeds in
excess of 100 m.p.h. are expected.

Sir Stafford Cripps, in declaring Brit-
ain's debt to Canada for aid in war and
in the post-war years, has shown only one
side of the picture. The debt of Canada,
and of the whole free world, to Britain is
the other.

With the baking industry the target for
attack under the Combines Act it looks as
if in self defence it will have to come up
with something in the nature of the baker's
dozen again as a safeguard against prosecu-
tion.

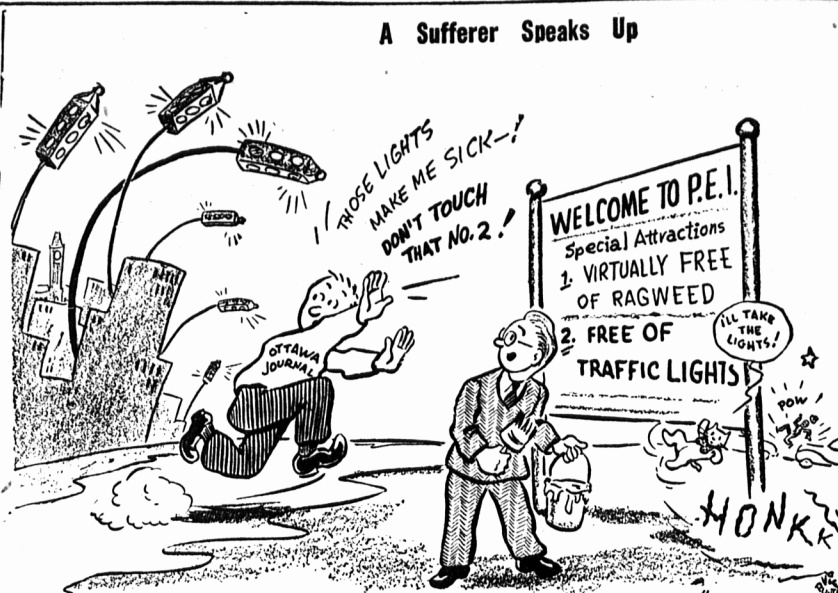
Mr. Gardiner and Mr. Howe disagree as
to whether we have food surpluses. It is a
question of identifying cause and effect. Our
exports have dropped but the Government
has not decided whether it is from lack of
markets or of under production.

Czechoslovakian farmers are limited to
ownership of not more than 124 acres, so
the present communist drive to liquidate
"big" farmers involves smaller holdings than
that limit. The obvious intent is to make
farms so small that the farmers will wel-
come collectivization.

Rent control, like other controls, costs
money for which the taxpayer foots the bill.
Canada's rentals administrator, Owen Loh-
ley of Montreal, has been paid \$15,000 in
travelling expenses since he was appointed
by order-in-council in 1944. His salary is
\$10,000 a year. A parliamentary return
showed that he received his largest annual
travelling expense payment in 1944-45, when
the amount was \$3,120.20. His travelling
expenses from April 1 of this year to Nov.
12, were listed as \$1,067.10. Total travelling
expense payments were approximately \$14,-
945.

Lord Kemsley, English newspaper pro-
prietor and publisher, addressing a gather-
ing of newspaper men in New York said:
"My experience so far does not convince
me that the ordinary university training
equips a man for the rough-and-tumble of
newspaper life, with the reporter's note-
book, or at the sub-editor's desk. However
valuable the scholar may be as a writer of
features or leading articles, those who ap-
pear to believe that newspapers would do
better if entrusted wholly to a graduate
staff are out of touch with reality. If the
university graduate desires to be a news-
paper man in the fullest sense of the word
then he can only be so by undertaking, on
entering the profession, a basic training in
the necessary routine of journalists' work.
I believe that for some time—for a long
time—recruitment will wisely be made at all
levels."

Dr. Brock Chisholm is again to the fore
with his psychiatrist theories, this time pro-
claiming that imposition of obedience upon
children is almost certain to distort their
personalities. Commenting on this the
"Montreal Gazette" says this theory is really
not new at all, but one that is very old. In-
deed, Samuel de Champlain, who explored
Canada in the early years of the 17th cen-
tury, came upon a tribe of Indians, named
the Attigouantans, who were practising pro-
gressive psychology within the present bound-
aries of Ontario. Of them Champlain
wrote: "Their children are extremely spoiled,
as a result of not being punished, and
are of so perverse a nature that they strike
their fathers and mothers, which is a sort
of curse that God sends them." Of course
Samuel de Champlain was only a visitor
from an old civilization. He failed utterly to
appreciate the significance of the great ex-
periment that was taking place before his
eyes. A great opportunity was lost. Had he
brought the new methods back to Europe
with him, the world by now might be really
300 years ahead



(THE OTTAWA JOURNAL HOPES EDITORIALY THAT CHARLOTTETOWN WILL REMAIN ONE CANAD-
IAN TOWN WHERE TRAFFIC CAN BE TRUSTED TO OPERATE WITHOUT RED AND GREEN LIGHTS.)

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.

SIDE SKATING RINK

Sir,—It was with amusement and
disgust that I read of a recent
meeting of a few of the sporting
citizens of the town of Summerside
who seem very anxious to have
an up-to-date skating rink and
youth center (both of which would
be a luxury and not a necessity)
erected by the town.

It is obvious that those who are
the most enthusiastic have been
fortunate enough to find themselves
well supplied with this world's
goods.

Have those men paused to consider
what percent of the taxpayers
would be benefited by the erection
of a building of this sort costing
many thousands of dollars? What
would one of us think if our neigh-
bour wished to build an addition to
his dwelling and asked us to help
defray the expense although we
would derive no benefit from it
whatever?

That is just what those en-
thusiasts are asking us to do
for there are hundreds of our tax-
payers to whom a skating rink
means nothing.

Would it not be more fitting for
them so much in favor of the pro-
ject, to join with their companions
and erect a building to their liking,
rather than increase the burden of
the taxpayer?

I am, Sir, etc.
SUMMERSIDE TRAVELLER.

Too Eager To Win

(Globe and Mail)

It is essential for the good name
of the Royal Winter Fair that
charges alleging that horses partici-
pating in the horse shows are
doped should be cleared up as
soon as possible. Giving horses
stimulating drugs is an illegal
practice, but unless the law is en-
forced it will not prevent un-
scrupulous owners from trying to
obtain an advantage. General de-
nials will not satisfy the public
if the charges have been too well
supported to be without founda-
tion. Strict precautions against
doping are taken at racetracks, and
serious penalties are imposed when
it is found. There should be no
doubt in the application of the
law at the Royal Winter Fair, the
Canadian National Exhibition,
or any other Canadian horse show.

The people who attend horse
shows do so because they love the
horses. They like the color and
the glamor which attend such
events. It is a gross insult to
such patrons that exhibitors should
drug their horses for the cheap
object of victory over more hon-
est competitors. Apart from the
interest of patrons of the horse
shows, there is the question raised
over the phony value built up for
a horse which has won a number
of ribbons after having been doped.
Should such a horse be sold, the
new owner is morally, if not leg-
ally, a victim of fraud. If this
practice were widespread, no little
harm could be done to the breeds
of horses used in the shows. There
is every reason for getting the
situation under control.

The urge to win is not in itself
a bad motive, but it sometimes
leads to absurdities. The approved
methods used in some other com-
petitions could also be recon-
sidered with general advantage. Much
acclaim is given to wheat, oats and
rye kings, but it is seldom noted
that their exhibits are not samples
of their run-of-the-mill production,
but laboriously selected from
several bushels. The same thing
is true of apples, pears, and other
fruits. They are not representa-
tive of the fruit of a tree or an
orchard, but are individually pick-
ed over from a large quantity. In
showing matches, competitors are
allowed to pat and shape furrows
by hand, before the judging takes
place.

This would appear to be carry-
ing the competitive spirit too far.
One would expect a contest of
making tractors to make one spe-
cial item to show at the Winter
Fair. What is shown is the com-
pany's general line. It might not
be practicable to demand that a
competitor submit a bushel at ran-
dom from his whole crop, but it
ought to be understood that the
prize has been won by selected
items, not the average. The win-
ning of prizes at fairs has become
a hobby proposition, and rarely re-
lates to the general welfare of
farming as they are carried on
under ordinary conditions of weath-
er and circumstances.

Old Charlottetown
(And P. E. I.)
FOR CALIFORNIA

"Quite a large party left the
Island recently for California,
among which were the family of
Mr. John Harrington, five in num-
ber, who go from Summerside to
rejoin Mr. Harrington, now in Cal-
ifornia; the Woolner family, nine
in number, of Rustico; the
McNeill family, three in number,
of Grand River, Lot 14, the head
of the family being now in Cal-
ifornia; Mr. Thomas Brazill of
Summerside, and Mr. Sutherland
of Clifton, New London, and sev-
eral others, including nine from
Charlottetown, and making in all
about thirty-two persons. Among
the Charlottetown contingent are
Mr. W. H. Fraser, contractor, and
family. A C.P.R. sleeper, a very
fine car built specially for such
excursions, has been provided for
them and will meet them at Point
du Chene. Thence they will go to
Vancouver, B.C., without change
of cars."

—Island Guardian, May 30, 1890.

WANDERLUST

Awake, arise! and come away!
To the wild woods and the plains,
To the pools where winter rains
Image all their roof of leaves,
Where the pine its garland weaves
Of sapless green, and ivy dun,
Round stems that never kiss the
sun.
Where the lawns and pastures be,
And the sandhills of the sea,—
Where the melting hoar-frost weets
The daisy-star that never sets,
And wind-flowers and violets,
Which yet join not scent to hue,
Crown the pale year weak and new,
Where the night is left behind,
In the deep east, dim and blind,
And the blue moon is over us,
And the multitudinous
Billows murmur at our feet,
Where the earth and ocean meet,
And all things seem only one
In the universal.

—Percy Bysshe Shelley.

U. K. And Canadians Get Together

A new "Businessmen's Commit-
tee" has been set up to study
Anglo-Canadian trade from the
businessmen's point of view. Sev-
eral United Kingdom organizations
have joined with the Canadian
Chambers of Commerce to form
the new committee which will meet
twice a year—once in each coun-
try. The next meeting will be in
London at the end of this year or
the beginning of next.

The committee will study prob-
lems of internal and external trade
affecting both countries, such as
exchange difficulties, multilateral
trading, etc. Suggestions are to
be considered "at the business
level", and the prime purpose will
be to exchange ideas and views. If
circumstances demand, the com-
mittee will have the job of allaying
misconceptions about mutual trad-
ing policies, and will make recom-
mendations to one or both of the
governments concerned.

Cabinet Secrets

(Windsor Star)

Mr. St. Laurent expresses con-
cern about secrets leaking out of
Cabinet. And he should, if these
relate to national defence, diplo-
matic information or other data
having to do with the safety of
the state. Or if tax policies or
other budgetary data become
known in advance of the budget,
it will give the public a false im-
pression of the government's policy.
Or, if information gets into the
hands of persons who can use it
for their own private profit.

Beyond that, too much secrecy
about Government doings or Cab-
inet meetings can be much more
dangerous to the welfare of a
democracy than too little secrecy.

Certainly there are leaks from
Cabinet. There were leaks long
before Mr. St. Laurent entered
public life and will be long after
he departs from it. Where does he
think newspapermen get their ad-
vance information, except from
Cabinet Ministers or from senior
or other civil servants? Often
Cabinet Ministers for their own
purposes wish to get information
out, sometimes to fly a kite to
test public opinion; often because
they think the public should know
what goes on. That was true even
during the war, even during such
hectic times as the conscription
crises.

A democracy can only function
at its best in an atmosphere of
maximum information. Too strict
a cloak of secrecy around Cabinet
meetings would deprive people of
knowledge they should have if
they are to be an enlightened
electorate. Possibly, such leaks
frequently embarrass a govern-
ment. There is no argument
against them. Some times it does
a government good to be embar-
rased.

Cabinet secrecy successfully pre-
vented the people from learning
that the Ministry had broken the
law of the land in refusing to
make public the Combines report
on the flour milling industry.
Thus preventing voters from
knowing about this report prior to
the election. It is just too bad
there hadn't been a leak on that
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In big law firms or private cor-
porations, where private business
is being discussed, there is reason
for secrecy. But in a democracy,
where Cabinet is discussing pub-
lic business, secrecy easily can be
overdone.

The Poet's Corner

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Notes By The Way

Ten months ago the number
of freight cars handled by the CNR
in and out of Edmonton was 49,800.
That was the total for January of
this year and the figure was close
to the 50,000 monthly the railway
had considered "normal." In July,
cars handled were 60,285; in Sep-
tember, they numbered 69,500; the
October total will be 82,000.—Ed-
monton Journal.

The present work relief program
(in Newfoundland) is serving the
twofold purpose of sparing abled-
bodied persons in distressed cir-
cumstances the indignities of the
dole and prunning the economic
pump. The principle is sound in
both cases. But it must be gen-
erally realized that this is a stop-
gap enterprise for two reasons.
One is that pump-priming is a
process that can last only as long
as the financial reserves of the
provincial government. The other
is that public funds cannot in any
event take the place of productive
employment. The transition from a
state of high prosperity to one of
uncertainty and want has been
far swifter than there was any
reason to suspect.—St. John's
(Nfld.) News.

The safety code for hunters is
simple, and can be generally stated
in four words: "Look before
you shoot." It's too bad that the
only sure-fire way to keep from
getting killed is to stay at home.
Sedentary skeptics are raising a
question that sportsmen's associa-
tions and state authorities find it
hard to answer. "Why," they ask,

is he so enthusiastic a follower of rugby,
but he is a keen hockey fan, and
is his whole family and particu-
larly his young son. The Alex-
anders during the hockey season
seldom miss a home game of the
Ottawa team known as the Ot-
tawa Senators. The Govern-
ment General in his address at the
official opening of Thames Hall at
the University of Western Ont-
ario told a story in regard to his
son. He said that on a Sunday
after seeing a game on Saturday
night the family were out for a
drive and when they were at Ham-
liament Hill the flag was at half
mast. "Why is the flag at half
mast?" asked Alexander's son.
"None of the senators is dead,"
replied the Governor General.
"Wait! Not one of the hockey play-
ers we saw in the game last
night," asked his son excitedly.—
A.R.F. in the London Free Press.

be able to clear several hundred
feet of bog each day. Driven by
gas turbine engines which will
themselves use peat, the plough is
fitted with six foot blades which
slice and lift the peat in even lay-
ers. Peat used by the plough it-
self is automatically crushed and
fed into a small furnace where it
is converted into hot air and steam
which provides the necessary driv-
ing power.

Experts from many parts of the
world have been to Britain recently
to find out the uses to which gas
turbines can be put and the British
Government's new research station
in Scotland is now carrying out
important experiments connected
with the development of these
engines for industrial and other
purposes.

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C.A.

"without city traffic, tall build-
ings and other modern conveni-
ences, should intelligent deer
hunters go to all that trouble just
to commit suicide?" It's a shame
if there is practically no limit on
the number of sportsmen killed,
simply because we haven't in-
sisted on a permanently closed
season for the doves who won't
look before they shoot.—Sault Ste
Marie Star.

A kindly, if satirical, American
critic said that England was a
most happy place because when-
ever poisons grew at all virulent
someone brought in a Bill for the
protection of birds; and all was
well. A new piece of evidence
of this love of birds came to my
mind the other day. A lady in
the northern outskirts of London,
thought sufficiently of rural life
where the birds have been regular-
ly fed for a generation or more
ever since a linnnet was found
dead on the doorstep one frosty
morning. A number of people
have wished to buy the house
but all have been rejected on the
ground that they showed no in-
terest in birds whatever. The
house will only be sold to a pur-
chaser who will desire to go on
feeding the birds.—London Spee-
iator.

Viscount Alexander is not only
an enthusiastic follower of rugby,
but he is a keen hockey fan, and
is his whole family and particu-
larly his young son. The Alex-
anders during the hockey season
seldom miss a home game of the
Ottawa team known as the Ot-
tawa Senators. The Govern-
ment General in his address at the
official opening of Thames Hall at
the University of Western Ont-
ario told a story in regard to his
son. He said that on a Sunday
after seeing a game on Saturday
night the family were out for a
drive and when they were at Ham-
liament Hill the flag was at half
mast. "Why is the flag at half
mast?" asked Alexander's son.
"None of the senators is dead,"
replied the Governor General.
"Wait! Not one of the hockey play-
ers we saw in the game last
night," asked his son excitedly.—
A.R.F. in the London Free Press.

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