

THE GUARDIAN

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

CHARLOTTETOWN, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17, 1947

Railway Troubles

It is evident that no matter what the findings of the Board of Transport Commissioners, considerable pressure has been brought to bear to justify and achieve an increase in freight rates.

Briefs presented by the Maritime Provinces were unanimous in predicting disaster to our industries should the increase be approved, and it may be stated that the Maritime Board of Trade spared no expense in having our case ably presented.

Equally strong legal opinion was secured to uphold the railway presentation, and may be summed up in the battle cry "The railways must not be expected to operate at a loss."

It is on this very point that the public agrees and disagrees with the railway officials. Losses accruing to them by reason of political or economic policies should not be a direct charge upon the railways.

Very little has been done by the railway either to improve service or lessen expenses. Here in Prince Edward Island, time has stood still and even retrogressed as far as the railway is concerned.

It might be said that the P. E. I. Division has practically given up the ghost as far as passenger and freight on divisional points. Even inter-divisional business has suffered, and the long freight haul remains the chief raison d'être.

It has been ably shown that expenses in every department have increased. Is it any wonder, in view of the stagnation policy, that revenue has failed to keep pace? Failure to make use of the distinct advantages over bus and truck competition does not lie at the door of the public, but with the railways lacking enterprise and imagination.

The campaign continues for admission of margarine into Canada. Its advocates disregard the fact that with margarine in the field butter production would fall off heavily, leaving the low income consumer no choice but to eat the substitute or nothing.

Newfoundland's national convention appears to be making heavy weather of it. It shows how quickly a country can lose the capacity for self-government but they can only learn again by doing.

Big changes are taking place on Britain's railways. When the Transport Commission takes over the entire network on January 1st it will be welded into one complete unit organized in six regions.

There were two objections to Canada's original gold subsidy. It did not help those marginal mines which had been producing without a profit and it represented an increase in the price of gold which is contrary to the regulations of the international monetary fund.

Ludwig Van Beethoven, German composer, born this date 1770. The greatest musical composer of all time. His earlier works were akin to Mozart and Haydn; his later works marked entirely new departures, characterized by amazing individuality of style and classical beauty and perfection of form.

That was an attractive and inspiring address given by Rev. Donald A. Campbell of New London at Rotary on Monday on his travels in Great War II, when he was in the Air Force. It was both descriptive and intellectual, showing the advantage of having eyes to see and understand, and having the ability to convey to others the impressions gathered.

Much of the apparent confusion in government policy these days is because it was based on the assumption that by this time Canada would be experiencing a recession caused by high production and loss of wartime consumption.

Canada, second highest per capita user of oil, is trying to extract larger quantities of oil buried in the foothills of the Rockies, and extensive plans are now under way to find new ways to boost Canada's oil production which last year amounted to 7,600,000 barrels.

Last session the Opposition complained that the setup of Crown corporations with a central bureau to manage the finances of all of them was created mainly for the purpose of concealing information by pooling the good and the bad and giving all of them the benefit of a huge body of reserves.

Five Liberal members and the Army member, Allan Embury, who is a Conservative. The former Premier W. T. Patterson is Opposition Leader, but his chief assistant, Mr. A. T. Procter, Moosomin, will either be absent this session or unable to take much more than a voting part.

Forecasts of legislation at the coming session include the final complete removal of the sales tax called, in Saskatchewan, the education tax, and the restoration of the supplementary payment to old age pensioners which was cut off this past fall.

Capitalism must exercise a degree of self-restraint in such matters if it is not to be subject to restraint from government-appointed agencies. The capitalistic system, which has produced more goods for more people at lower prices than any other system, is now suffering from the greediness of a few men who are operating under its protection.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Prime Minister W. L. Mackenzie King born this date 1874.

The footpaths and streets are slippery and dangerous.

Surely \$2,300 is a record for a modern writing desk—paid by an enterprising resident of Dorling at the auction of Lord Bennett's furniture.

Our members at Ottawa for the moment are popular and ornamental in the House. Would that they were a little less popular and a great deal more effective.

This Christmas Charlottetown should present its gayest appearance since pre-war days. Power scarcity is a thing of the past, and Christmas lighting is the order of the day.

It has been suggested that the election result represents approval of Premier Jones' idea on the matter of selecting a wife. If so it may clearly be the duty of the Government to put the matter in the hands of an appropriate department and establish standards.

It will indeed be a boon to be able to travel to Sydney, C.B., by air in a couple of hours, instead of wearily doing the journey in twenty-four hours by train. This should be a popular service and will bear developing to at least twice a day.

Perhaps the most damaging commentary on the practice of having party slates in municipal elections—a practice which prevails everywhere in the United States and which some would like to introduce into Canada—is provided by a recent happening at Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania.

The State of Mississippi took a stern lecture from the Supreme Court on Monday. To many it must come as rather a shock to learn anew that the jury in Mississippi is all-White.

Neither of the two principal carriages used in the Royal wedding procession was originally intended for Royal use. The Glass Coach was made in 1881 by John W. Peeters, to the order of the Lord Mayor-elect of London, Sir Whitaker Ellis.

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Notes By The Way

Britain is the centre of the sterling bloc, and is, in effect, the banker for this vast zone. It includes all parts of the Commonwealth and Empire, except Canada and Newfoundland, as well as many countries in Europe and Asia.

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Prices! That's the ugly word imprinted darkly in the minds of all men. They are too high. The old laws of supply and demand just don't seem to work.

Drug addicts are not criminals. They may be quite respectable, intelligent and honest people, who after they have taken the drug which makes them not responsible for their actions.

Popular belief that the yellow races comprise the bulk of earth's population has been debunked. The "white" Caucasoid races have a larger membership than have the Mongoloid and Negroid races together.

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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.

BETTER THAN EXPECTED

Sir,—The number of votes cast for the C.C.F. in Prince County alone—2,613, was very encouraging to its supporters. No one expected as many as this.

Although the election is over, there is no time to lose. An educational campaign will soon be scheduled for all who wish to learn how a clean government can be provided for the people and by the people.

From the standpoint of morals, we envisage a socialist government such as the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation of Saskatchewan, that works hand in glove with the "Temperance" Federation of that Province in carrying temperance teaching into the homes and schools.

But the common man has a body as well as a soul. He must be protected from the crushing weight of high cost of living, and the paralyzing effect of exchanging his labor or his products, for less than a fair price.

I am, Sir, etc. J. A. MACKENZIE Kennington.

ELECTION COMMENT FROM U.S.

Sir,—That no one may say this letter is written by a partisan in C.P. I have never voted in an election, the reason being that I never seem to be able to claim sufficient length of residence when called upon to vote in a Canadian election day.

The impression I have seen given, from reading the speeches of the candidates for election, and from the letters in the Public Forum is that the greater part of the disapprobation of the C.C.F. is based on the following "facts": (1) It is socialistic; (2) It is going to become Communist as soon as it gets into power; (3) It is not democratic; (4) It is not the least bit of a democracy; (5) It will bring regimentation and a bureaucracy; (6) Harold Winch got out of line three years ago and made a rather silly speech; (7) Look out for it! This is the "No-face" man; (8) He is going to take the Liberal Party; (9) He is going to take the Liberal Party; (10) He is going to take the Liberal Party.

The warning has been repeated many times that should the C.C.F. form a government the people would be engulfed in red tape. May I observe that red tape is a part and parcel of any administration.

I might say that I think Mr. John P.C. MacDonald's line of thought unimpeachable. He was surprised to hear of an intelligent and prosperous business man like Douglas MacFarlane support the C.C.F. I know Mr. MacFarlane, he is quite clever.

But intelligent men founded the C.C.F. Intelligent men fostered it, and intelligent men are working in it now. None of us are so narrow-minded as to deny that it is true that not all C.C.F.'ers are intelligent. Some of its supporters look on it as a last straw, which is the reason for their supporting it. But I wouldn't go so far from home to look for non-intelligent men. That reminds me, Mr. Percy Gray's speech in Charlottetown sounded frantic. I read a speech in the last Dominion election in which the C.C.F. was condemned in almost exactly the same words.

The reason for this letter is not to boost the C.C.F. It is more of a



GIVE HIM A BIT OF LUXURY. FLANNEL ROBES \$12.95, SILK ROBES \$9.95, WOOL ROBES \$10.00, GLADSTONE CASES \$27.00, CLOWHIDE GLADSTONE \$50.00, JUMBO GLADSTONE \$75.00, LADIES' TRAVEL SETS \$25.00, LADIES' CASES \$12.00, INITIALLED BELTS \$3.00, MEN'S BELTS \$1 up, GABARDINE PANTS \$13.95, MEN'S SWEATERS \$5.00, HAND-MADE SLIPPERS \$7.75.

HENDERSON & CUDMORE WHERE QUALITY IS SURE

Old Charlottetown (And P. E. I.) WATER WANTED J. W. Pickard, Esq., Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, at a recent meeting of the Board of Fire Wardens, introduced for consideration the subject of "Water Supply". The engineer dealt on the fact that the whole Fire Brigade of the City was unable to stop the progress of a fire while a gale of wind prevailed, and stated that while the Department possesses steam and manual engines and all the necessary appliances, there was a lack of the most essential element—water.

COMPLETE INSURANCE SERVICE W. K. Rogers Agencies LIMITED Queen Street Charlottetown

The Poets Corner FROM: GARNERED I have forgotten many things! Where reeds are growing; And in some dim and pagan way I hear the little tune today Pan once was blowing!