

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded in 1887) Authorized as Second Class Mail Post Office Department, Ottawa.

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

Why Change It?

According to a front-page despatch in the London Daily Express, the term "Dominion" in relation to Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa is to be dropped and in its place "Commonwealth" will be used.

It will be recalled that this matter came up for some acrimonious discussion in the House of Commons at Ottawa last year. The proposal to change the name of Dominion Day to "Canada Day" made by Mr. A. P. Cote, Liberal member for Matapedia-Matane, was carried on division but was turned down in the Senate.

It therefore follows that this country's legal designation is the Dominion of Canada, and must so remain as long as its statutory Constitution exists in the general form in which the Fathers of Confederation charted it in 1867.

It seems arrant nonsense to contend that the term "dominion" is in any way derogatory. On the contrary it connotes sovereign power, and the word as used in our national name is an assertion of Canada's supremacy over the vast territory enclosed within its borders.

For The Blind

There will be nothing but commendation for the announcement by the Federal Minister of Health that it has been decided to reduce from forty to twenty-one years the eligible age for pensions for the blind.

The Minister estimated that there are now 7,000 blind pensioners in Canada, and that about 1,700 persons would be added to the pensions roll by the new move.

The change with regard to pensions for the blind was promptly indorsed by the Opposition.

Canada To Be Represented

The fifth session of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations is scheduled to meet in New York on July 19. Hon. Paul Martin, Minister of National Health and Welfare, will head the Canadian delegation, with Dr. George E. Davidson, Deputy Minister, as alternate.

The importance of this aspect of the work of the United Nations is recognized in the preamble of the Charter in the resolution "to employ international machinery for the promotion of economic and social advancement of all peoples" and thus "to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom."

To date—two years after the signing of the United Nations Charter at San Francisco—it must be confessed that progress economically and socially has not been all that could be wished. At the same time the fact of the existence of the Charter itself—and that it has actually begun to operate in nearly every field of human concern, from child welfare to aviation and atomic energy—is of tremendous importance.

A sensible comment on the situation was that of Mr. M. J. C. C. F. leader in the House, when he remarked, apropos the Prime Minister's reminder that the aims of the Charter cannot be lightly won: "When we think that we have been a Confederation for eighty years and yet have not achieved complete unity throughout the country, we should not be alarmed at the difficulties which have arisen in connection with the United Nations."

in spite of the fact that the glare of public opinion is on the Security Council, the greatest hope for world peace is in laying the foundation of an economic and social order which will bring justice to all peoples.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Conservatives have selected all their candidates for next Provincial election, and now it is up to Premier Jones to dissolve the Legislature for their convenience.

One of the proposed amendments to the Criminal Code will make it an offence to carry an imitation of an offensive weapon. The small fry had better watch out.

Messrs. Myrick and Agnew have done good work at Ottawa, in connection with our fisheries, and are evidently satisfied we are to obtain a square deal from the Minister of Fisheries and his department.

Now that the amendments to the old age and blind pensions legislation has been passed, pensioners will be able to collect arrears back to May. Considering the \$2,000 boost to their own salaries, the increase to the poor and needy is nothing for the Government to boast about.

Judging by the number of accidents reported, a single public holiday is far from being an unmissed blessing. After all there is virtue in the age-old maxim—six days shalt thou labour and rest on the seventh. That is what really gives zest to life.

The Soviet conception of democracy is made manifest by the fact that Russia's representative at International Conferences has no free hand—he must refer everything to Moscow for instructions and advice.

Although the recommendations of the various civil service associations for optional retirement at 60 and compulsory at 65 The Ottawa Journal reports that it was surprising how many changed their viewpoint on reaching superannuation age.

Quebec founded this date 1608 by Samuel Champlain; taken by the British under Wolfe, who, like Montcalm fell during the action in 1759; the battlefield is now a national park, and there is a monument to Wolfe and Montcalm. The City consists of Upper and Lower Town, the former residential, the latter devoted to commerce.

One of the factors which will revolutionize our way of life is the extended use of microfilm. Before long libraries will store their books in this form, and government and business do their filing using microfilm which occupies only a small fraction of the space required for the original, and at the same time permits cheap reproduction of material.

Beer has its uses in both peace and war. Winston Churchill never told the whole story of his famous "We will fight on the beaches" broadcast after Dunkerque, the very Rev. Dr. Hewlett Johnson, dean of Canterbury, told an audience recently. "During the broadcast," the dean said, "Mr. Churchill put his hand over the microphone and, in an aside, said to me with a smile: 'And we will hit them over the heads with beer bottles, which is all we have really got.'"

The birth rate in Britain for the quarter ended December 31, 1946, rose to a level of 20.5 a 1,000 of the total population. This is the highest birth rate recorded since 1921. The rate for the corresponding quarter of 1945 was 15.3 and for 1938 13.8. The infant mortality rate was 44 a 1,000 of related live births, which is 7 a 1,000 below that for the equivalent quarter of the 10 preceding years, 1936-45. The reproduction rate was 10% above that required to maintain the population.

Of over 72,000 high school students interviewed in a nation-wide poll to determine their choice of occupation, five per cent of the boys and two per cent of the girls indicated interest in selling as a career. Little of practical value can be drawn from these figures. Naturally the more glamorous and publicized occupations appeal to the young Horatio Algiers and their girl friends. It is only after a teen-ager has learned a business that he discovers greater possibilities in selling. Not until he enters his twenties does he feel the pull of salesmanship as a calling.

Britain's forests are to be increased from 3,000,000 acres to 5,000,000. The Forestry Commission have started work on a plan which will ultimately enable Britain to satisfy at least 35% of her timber needs from home production. Before the war imports supplied 96% of these requirements at a cost of \$252,000,000 each year. Sacrifices during two world wars have made serious inroads on woodlands and in consequence the timber shortage presents quite a serious problem. The Government has, therefore, adopted a 50-year plan for extending and improving the country's forests in which the help of private land-owners is also being enlisted.

The Government bill, which will bring employers of Crown Companies and some others under the Civil Servants' Superannuation Act, illustrates the anomalous character of these creatures of government. The government goes into business in cooperation with private citizens and sets up corporations to act for it. Numerous problems arise from this incorporation, such as whether the company and its servants are liable for their acts as private citizens, whether the company is liable to taxation and whether it may be sued without a petition of right. The tendency is to give them all the privileges of the crown and at the same time permit them to bind by contract persons dealing with them as if they were a private company.

Notes By the Way

Ten years after discovery of Steep Rock, company directors, knowing only that there are more than 100,000,000 tons of high grade ore available, have practically no idea what the limits may be. In any case, it will last beyond the lifetime of people now living.—Fort Arthur News-Chronicle.

Once again the local police are threatening to get "tough" about all-night parking on the streets. All-night parking has for years been against the law in Windsor, but there has been no real effort to enforce the ordinance. Undoubtedly, trying to put cars off the public thoroughfares would cause embarrassment to many owners who simply cannot find garage accommodation. Nevertheless, the standing vehicles do interfere with civic services, and the streets are being wrongly used as storage spaces. The greatest good for the greatest number must be the final deciding factor.—Windsor Star.

This appears to be a season of nostalgia for the transportation of other days. Riding towards Fort William today are two cowboys guiding their horses along the Trans-Canada Highway. They set out from the Pacific coast last year in a party of 200 and followed the Atlantic coast on horse-back to the other day we heard about the man who was travelling across the states to the south of us in one of the "makes of automobiles." Again this week a group of canoeists call in at Fort William, on his way from the Pacific to the Atlantic.—Fort William Times-Journal.

"Easy death" has once more cropped up as a subject for argument in Britain. A doctor has admitted that he once helped a patient to die, in order to save him pain when suffering from an incurable disease. There are always people who advocate putting this power into the hands of medical practitioners. Whether the patient is gaining support, there is no way of determining. One thing is certain, however, that in any circumstances should the decision be left to one doctor. Only a law that would place responsibility on a board, under careful supervision of the authorities, would make the idea even remotely tolerable.—Windsor Star.

We are not so sure that we care to see a great many more painted barns. Not at least, until more farmers see for themselves what they can make real improvements. A badly painted barn is like a badly painted woman: neither of them adds to the attractiveness of their surroundings. Barns are always important, and we doubt very much whether an edifice without leaks will crumble more quickly than those that are thinly coated with paint. In the climate of cold, barns without proper ventilation sweat badly here in Winter. As a result, paint often peels off in one season, and without it the natural porousness of the wood is exposed as much as paint would prevent erosion. A well-painted barn requires sound thinking as well as money and a sense of beauty.—Peterborough Examiner.

The only thing wrong with the war to the Germans is that they did not win it. Now they they are unwilling to pay for the Nazi lust for world power and are crying out for relief. The production of industrial production today is one-fifth below the peak output of last October and November. Spring plantings of grains, potatoes and such crops are only slightly greater than last year's. The contribution to national needs. The Germans are looting on the job. Germany must be fed, of course. Aside from humanitarian reasons, it is in our own interests that the Reich become self-sustaining. But we can't keep on feeding the Germans indefinitely. We work to pay the exorbitant taxes that are employed in great measure for relief purposes. It is high time for the Germans, too, to buckle down to work, productive work, and forget their injured feelings. Whose fault was it, if it wasn't Hitler's? We didn't start it.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

The only disadvantage of becoming a non-smoker is, that for a short time one feels a sense of irritation, especially when others are smoking in the same room. Lord Morton writes in The London Times. On the other hand, he who gives up smoking will find that (1) his general health steadily improves; (2) he plays his favorite game with greater skill and less fatigue; (3) his enjoyment of food and drink is keener; (4) his sense of smell is more acute—this has its disadvantages, but the advantages outweigh them; (5) he no longer has that tiresome cough and his mouth feels cleaner; (6) he saves a lot of money; (7) he has a joyous feeling of independence while others are seeking for cigarettes and matches; (8) he enjoys plays and concerts more because he is not longing for a smoke. All the above represents the personal experience of one who was a heavy smoker for 35 years. To disarm criticism, I claim no credit for ceasing to smoke, and I am quite familiar with the fable of the fox who lost his tail.

NEWCASTLE - on-TYNE, England.—(CP)—Surgeon J. H. Bentley triumphed in nine-year-old case when Brian Froggart, born with a cleft palate and little hopes of speech, clearly recited a nursery rhyme.

LIVERPOOL, England.—(CP)—Said to have had a "horror" of rubber since infancy a 15-year-old boy who ran-clashed more than 100 women's raincoats was held for medical examination.

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.

BAD ROADS AT NINE MILE

Sir—May I have a few lines in your paper to express my utter disgust at the way the Department of Public Works is handling the roads in the area of Nine Mile Creek. I had a friend from the U. S. A. come to visit me here and when he arrived at my home his first words were: "Have you any Public Works Dept.?" I apologized for the mess the road was in and later made some enquiries as to who is responsible. I was informed by other farmers in the vicinity that they have not seen the road machine this year, and in a nearby district I was told the only work on the road which had made matters worse. It may be a matter of interest to the Department to note that the private lane in an exceptionally bad condition. I hope, Sir, you will publish this letter and that the responsible party in Charlottetown will take some action to improve the roads. This is the only way we have to advise our friends not to try to visit us this year. I am, Sir, etc.

FARMER

UNDER-PRIVILEGED MINORITIES

Sir—Grateful acknowledgement should be made to those responsible for removal of civil disabilities under which our Canadian-Orientals in British Columbia laboured by reason of the "Oriental Disfranchisement Act of 1874." Those who suffered under that law were chiefly descendants of illiterate Chinese, Sikh, and Hindu labourers who arrived here some seventy odd years ago to convert from their native religions, and Canada's transcendent line, the C. P. R.—But there still remain two sections to which the relief given by Canadian Citizenship laws received passed at Ottawa and Victoria has not yet been extended, viz. (1) our "Native Sons" the Red-Indians, and (2) our Canadian-born or naturalized and adopted children—the Japanese.

Some of us are still obsessed by the narrow view that Canada belongs exclusively to people of European descent. They will be converted from that error if they study Paul's remarks to the philosophers of Athens, as quoted in Acts of the Apostles, Chap. XVII: "God, that made the world and all things therein, and hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointing the bounds of their habitation.—Him declare I unto you."

Poor weak man may think he can defeat the purpose and will of his Creator, the Eternal, and right in his own mind, may try to work that false ideal out of human minds that some particular race, be it Hebrew, or German, or British, is to have special favours from Heaven, and first choice of earthly habitations; but in the end it will come to pass that all will "love God with all their heart—and their neighbours as themselves." They will no longer try to set aside God's purposes by drawing a "Colour-Line" between the Far East and the "Near-West," or declaring that England, Australia, and America are exclusively "White-man countries."—"For the earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof: the round world, and they that dwell therein." When the prince of Peace comes, saying, "Peace be still," then will the "Golden Rule" be universally obeyed; then, and not till then, may it be said:—"War shall be no more." No man is a full citizen, who is not a citizen of the world. The law is denied which the law extends to certain privileged classes only.

Jesus says to us today, as he said of old to his disciples, (John VIII—32). "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." "I am the Truth; abide in me, and ye shall be free indeed;" but—to the self-righteous Pharisees questioning him, he said:—"But he that committeth sin is the slave of sin, and your Master and Lord is the Father of all sins." When the Evil One prompts us to bad thoughts and deeds, let us follow our Master in saying, "Get thee behind Me, Satan!"—and then—as Canadian electors, make sure that in no Province of this fair land shall slavery, in any form, be tolerated; but that all Canadian citizens have equal rights in the eye of the law; then it will not be a travesty to say, "The Honourable So-and-So is our Minister of Justice."

The late O. K. Chesterton gave words to a great paradox when he wrote: "Some men have their hands clean because they are making the world unclean; others have their hands unclean because they are making the world clean." That is true; the world is full of evil, and will be to the end. But in facing that fact don't let us fall into the Manichean heresy of thinking evil to be co-eternal and co-eternal with good. For God only is good; and when he comes in judgment his angels will separate good from evil, burn the tares and gather in the sheaves. He who said of himself:—"Behold I make all things new." (Rev. 21:5) the same great Architect of the Universe, when all things were made, "will first attend to all 'demolitions' necessary before perfect re-building can be possible."

I am, Sir, etc. Frederick W. L. Moore, Victoria, B. C.

NORTH AMERICAN LIFE L. S. STEVENSON BRANCH MANAGER 140 RICHMOND ST. A MUTUAL COMPANY

Chignecto Canal

(Buckville Tribune-Post) Again we hear loud cries for the construction of the Chignecto Canal as a transportation shortcut and a solution to our high freight rate problems. In recent weeks the project has been enthusiastically endorsed by Maritime newspapers, Boards of Trade and the apple growers of the Annapolis Valley.

The proposal is not a new one. It has been discussed for nearly three hundred years. The first man to consider the possibility of a canal across the Isthmus of Chignecto was Monsieur De Meulles, the Intendant of Quebec, who spent the winter of 1685-86 at Beaubassin which was located near where the ruins of Port Lawrence now stand. De Meulles had this to say with regard to the construction of a canal across the Isthmus: "The portage of one league from Bale Verte on the way to Beaubassin can easily be cut by a canal because all the land is low, and thus water communication could be established between the Gulf of Saint Lawrence and the French Bay. The canal need only be ten or twelve feet wide at first; when the sea water passes through it a fine river would be formed in a short time and vessels from Quebec could easily traverse it." The proposed canal would have linked the headwaters of the Missaguash with the modern Bale Verte Creek which flows into the Northumberland Strait. Had the undertaking advocated by De Meulles been completed Nova Scotia today would undoubtedly be an island cut off from the mainland.

Proposals to construct a canal were again advanced shortly after the American Revolution. These proposals were established on a military and naval point of view and as the bitterness stirred up by the revolution died so did proposals for the canal.

The first actual survey for a canal was undertaken in 1822 by order of the Province of New Brunswick on behalf of the city of Saint John. The surveyor recommended a four-foot canal to follow the line of the valley of the Aulac River, cross to the Missaguash Lakes and thence to the Tidnish River. Three years later the route was again surveyed. This time an eight foot waterway was proposed at an estimated cost of \$398,000. The following year the plans were submitted to an eminent English engineer for his comment. He endorsed the project but recommended a thirteen foot canal at an estimated cost of \$885,952.

After the surveys were made and the reports received the matter was dropped and it was not until 1843 that another engineer was employed to add his advice to that which had already been received. This time the project was recommended as being impracticable and promptly forgotten for more than twenty years. Interest was revived about this time of Confederation and a commission was appointed to undertake the construction of the canal. That, however, was all that was done.

In 1869 new surveys were made this time by the Federal government. These showed that the canal could be constructed at a cost then estimated at \$7,100,000. Two years later a Royal Commission was appointed to investigate all canals in Canada. The report of this Commission gave first priority to the construction of a canal across the isthmus. The recommendations of this Commission prompted the government of the day to make plans for the construction of the canal and \$1,000,000 was voted in the estimates for preliminary work on the project.

Unfortunately the government changed before work commenced and nothing was done. In 1876 the government of the day appointed another Royal Commission to study the canal project and this investigation caused a report to be made which was unfavourable to the construction of the canal. Indeed the charge has been levelled that the second Commission was appointed to defeat the project.

Then came the ship railway. Plans for this venture were first made shortly after 1875. Work, however, did not commence until 1889 and the project was not abandoned completely even though work stopped in 1891, until 1897. For twenty years the canal project was forgotten.

The late Royal Commission inquired into the project in 1931 and its findings were tabled in the House of Commons on the 24th of March. It was stated that the canal was feasible; and that means for all "the fearful, unbelievers, murderers and all liars"—the second death.

The Poets Corner FROM A CITY DESK

The boy would bring the omen in from work. Moving their bank with his shrill "Go!" and "Haw!" And, feeling kinship with the proud farm dog, He knelt to shake the gravelly offered paw.

He saluted cows upon the pasture rocks And taught the awkward calves to be leeked to stack and tie the buckwheat sheaves. To cure them for the thrashers' pounding flails.

Just when a day seemed endless to the boy And he was sure that chores were never done, His father's voice was like a steady hand Upon his shoulder, "Bey does it, Son."

Across the widening valley of the years The man remembers with a faint regret. Though payments dull the ancient pulse of earth, The boy comes back, and he cannot forget.

—Inez George Griskey

Old Charlottetown (And P.E.I.)

PIONEER DAYS

"Travelling throughout the Island in early days was a great hardship. There were no roads and many swamps. As late as 1810 there was but one house between Bedouque and Charlottetown. Many persons travelled around the shore. The first settlers built log houses, with floors of sand. Board roofs were not used till many years after when mills were established; carpets were unknown till forty years after colonization began. The material for every article of clothing was made on the Island. Wooden clogs were worn for boots, although tanned and green hide was also used. The tallow from the cow farm was made into candles; these gave a greenish light. Pine knots also supplied light. Flint and steel were the means of obtaining fire. The farming implements were primitive. Plows had but one handle and no one attempted a straight furrow. For forty years these were used, and in 1810 two handled plows were introduced.

The first threshing machine arrived in 1826 and the first reaper in 1830. The island horses were small and hardy, and the cattle of an inferior type. The ox was more generally used for work. The pig and the walrus (sea cow) and the seal were plentiful, and were of value to the Islanders. The wild animals included the bear, moose, fox, otter, mink and marten. Bears were not considered very dangerous, but made havoc among cattle and sheep. In articles of food the Islanders were very well off. They did not have oatmeal until 1820. Tea cost from 8 to 10 shillings per pound. Sugar was abundant, being obtained from the maple.

The Methodist minister arrived in 1794 and the first Presbyterian minister, Rev. Peter Gordon, in 1806. During a period of twenty years the people of Prince-town had no day when the Word was dear."—From a paper by the late Judge Alley, read by his son Dr. Alley at a meeting of the Historical and Literary Society, 1900.

9th of November, 1938. The report of the Commission that cold water on the project and the following general recommendation was made: "In the course of its inquiry the Commission failed to find a demand for the construction of the canal, though every effort was made to arrive at a just estimate of prevailing public opinion in the Maritime." Having regard to the facts as ascertained, this Commission is strongly of the opinion that the proposal to construct a canal at Chignecto offers no national or local advantages at all commensurate with the estimated outlay."

This Commission seemed to be anti-everything. They also considered the possibilities of a power scheme whereby the tides of the Bay of Fundy might be harnessed. The estimated cost of such a power development combined with the canal was \$72,185,000. The Commission did not pass judgment on a tidal power project as such but were of the opinion it would be inadvisable to attempt to combine the two proposals as they did not believe any useful purpose could be served by so doing.

These paragraphs give you something of the enthusiasm and disappointment that has been associated with the canal project through the years. They also tell you something of the political action and inaction that has accompanied various proposals. Today enthusiasm is again being built up. New arguments in favour of the project are being advanced. Let us hope that this time the project will succeed. However, despite what the learned Commissioners said to the contrary in 1933 the construction of a canal should be linked with a tidal power development. If our Maritime Provinces are ever to prosper we must have cheap power as well as the Chignecto Canal.

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